THE

AMERICAN FARMER,

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS OF THE DAY.

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS." . . . . . *Virg.*

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WORK FOR AUGUST.

We purpose throwing out a few cursory hints with respect to the work to be performed this month on the *farm*, and in the *garden*, and in so doing we shall not aim at novelty, but merely act upon the principle, that it is good to remind one of their duties, however familiar he may be with them, for as the old adage has it, a stitch in time saves nine; so will a reasonable admonition often save the farmer from delay, that greatest of all drawbacks upon his labors; for of all the occupations of mankind there is none in which success is more dependent upon timely action than that of the agriculturist. The *delay* in the commencement of his ploughing, under peculiar conditions of soils and weather, may often retard his operations for a week or ten days, and sometimes render it impossible for him to get his crops in in season. The *delay* in the working of his fields for only a few short days, may despoil him of much of their products, diminish his revenues, and embarrass him in the fulfilment of his engagements. To do things *well* and at the *right time*, may be said to be a duty of imperative necessity with every tiller of the earth, as in the observance of this rule is his interest most vitally concerned. And as such is the case, it is meet that we should play the part of a monthly remembrancer, in so far at least as to call to the minds of our brethren some of the more important labors which they should perform, lest in the multiplicity of the calls upon their time, they may forget something they ought to do. With this expose of our views, we will proceed to specify what ought to be done

ON THE FARM.

Cutting Timothy.—As much timothy may still remain to be cut, it may be opportune for us to make a few passing remarks with respect to the proper period of *cutting*, the mode of *curing* and the manner of *stacking* the hay when cured.

As long as husbandmen have been engaged in the business of hay-making, the proper *time* of cutting timothy is still a debateable question. Some maintaining the *right* time to be while the plant is fresh in flower; while others, with equal confidence, maintain the *right* time to be after it has ripened its seed. Each of the parties to this controversy support their respective positions with a good show of reason, and very notable arguments. The first contend, that this grass should be cut when fresh in bloom, because the hay, when thus cut, is more fragrant, more sightly to the eye, and therefore more saleable, and above all, that it is more palatable to the animals which have to eat it—these are all good reasons:—But the advocates of *late* cutting assert, that if the cutting be delayed until the *seed shall be ripe*, that there will be a much larger portion of nutrition in the hay,—and they are borne out in this opinion by the unerring test of analysis; by which it has been ascertained, that hay cut when the *seed is ripe*, exceeds that when cut when the grass is in bloom, in nutritive powers, as 23 to 10, being a difference so manifest in favor of late cutting, that one would think there could be no contrariety of opinion in the matter. We, however, *think* that *the* right time is to be found in the medium between these two extremes. We would cut the grass when the seed may be fairly developed, and *avoid* awaiting the ripening point, unless our field should be thinly set, in which case we should delay cutting until the seed were *entirely* ripe, and we would do so with a view to increase the stand of plants through the seeds which might be shattered in the processes of cutting and curing—and to place this result beyond all doubt, so soon as our hay should be hauled off the field, we would pass both a harrow and roller over it.

As to the mode of curing, we will remark, that the grass once cut, should be exposed as little as possible to the influence of sun and rain; after remaining in the swathe a few hours, it should be thrown into cocks, and thus cured; this process, besides being, to

a certain extent, a security against rain, preserves the fragrance and color of the hay from deterioration. In stacking it away, *salt* should be sprinkled layer and layer about in the proportion of a peck to each ton. Hay thus salted, may be put away much sooner than where no salt is used, as the salt prevents combustion, besides rendering the hay much more palatable to the stock.

Sowing Timothy.—Those who desire to set *Timothy* meadows this season, should forthwith get their grounds ready and sow the seed as early as possible in this month. And we will here remark that timothy requires a rich soil, soil which is naturally rich and in good heart, or made fertile by plenty of manure. This requirement of fertility can the more readily be conceived when it is borne in mind that it is a septennial crop, and that during that period but little of the riches of the earth which may be abstracted by the crops are returned to it in the form of manure, while it may be in grass. Hence then it is evident that the earth should be well supplied with manure to sustain this series of seven years cropping, at the commencement, unless the culturist should be so provident as to give to it periodical top-dressings—a course which should be pursued, but which few do pursue. Of the kind of manures for timothy, that which is made in the barnyard, rich composts, aided by lime, ashes, or marl, may be said to be the best. Any field intended for a timothy meadow, besides being put in good *heart*, should be put in the best possible *tilth*, by deep and thorough ploughing, rolling and harrowing. These latter processes should be continued until the soil shall be complete pulverised, as unless every clod be broken fine, much of the seed will perish for want of ability to force its way through the earth.

Quantity of seed per acre.—The usual quantity of seed sown upon an acre of ground, is a peck; but we should prefer a *peck and a half*, not only to allow ample room for the failure of imperfect seed coming up, but because we do think that, when a man sows, he *should put a sufficiency of seed in the ground to raise the requisite number of plants to cover it to the exclusion of weeds.*

Methods of sowing Timothy.—Many persons sow turnip seed with it, for the two-fold purpose of protecting the young timothy plants from the intense heat of the sun, and of raising a stock of turnips for table consumption and the use of their cattle—others sow timothy seed alone. This latter plan we prefer; though some of the best fields of *timothy* which we have ever seen, were grown on corn fields, the seed having been sown at the last working of the corn. When thus sown in corn-fields, it is necessary that the corn shall have been worked level—that is, that its culture should have been by the cultivator, so as to preserve an even surface in order that no impediment may be presented in harvesting the grass.

Of covering the Seed.—A *bush* is often used to cover the seed. This plan we do not like, and for the reason, that it is apt to drag the seed in irregularly. We prefer using a light harrow, taking the precaution to wrap a grape vine arround the teeth, so as to shorten their length, in order that the seed may not be buried too deeply—and we uniformly follow the harrowing in of the seed with a roller. This latter implement, besides presenting an even surface to the scythe, presses the earth around the seed, hastens their germination, and ensures a good stand of plants.

Thrashing.—As soon as possible thrash out your grain, and thereby place yourself in a position to avail yourself of any improvements in the market.—When it shall have been thrashed out be sure to place it beyond the reach of vermin.

Fallowing of ground, and sowing Fall Grain.—So soon as your harvests shall have been got through with and your several grains secured from harmsway, plough up such fields as you may intend for *Rye* and *Wheat*. Of the first of these grains we would advise that it be sown as early in September as possible, and that the ground for each be put in tiptop order,—taking care that lime or marl either be naturally in the soil or applied. Although Rye may not require as much lime for its food as Wheat, still it requires some, and the prudent husbandman will see to it that it be supplied. Of the time of sowing *wheat*, we have long thought that many farmers delay it too long. The Mediterranean wheat may without danger be sown any time after the 10th of September, and we are of opinion that none of the other varieties should be delayed longer than the first week in October, as we really believe that more injury results to this crop from winter killing than from the Hessian Fly, as disastrous as are the ravages of that insect. It is obvious that if the planting be delayed till late in the fall that the plants cannot root sufficiently to resist the thawings and freezings of winter and early spring, and consequently that a very large portion of them must perish.

Preparation of Seed Wheat.—The *smut* is a disease that every careful wheat-grower may prevent, therefore, there is no apology for any who may permit his crop to be thus visited. The preventive remedy most farmers know, but as too many neglect to use it, we will here repeat the recipe, in the hope that it may serve to remind all of a *duty* to themselves which they should discharge.

Steep for Seed Wheat.—Take table salt and make brine of strength sufficient to bear an egg up, wash your seed wheat well in water, skimming off all the light and imperfect grains which may float upon the surface—after thus washing it put it in the brine where let it soak for 12 hours, then drain off the brine, spread the wheat on the barn floor, strew fresh slaked lime over it in sufficient quantity to coat each grain of wheat with it; stir up the seed with a spade or shovel so as to mix the lime with them—and be sure to do no more each day than you intend to sow during that day. Seed wheat thus prepared will be exempt from smut, will vegetate more quickly and with greater certainty than if not thus prepared.

Quantity of seed wheat to the acre.—Less than two bushels to the acre should not be sown—*and care should be taken to get good seed*, and press the earth down with a heavy roller.

Draining and Ditching.—All wet, retentive, tenacious soils should be drained and ditched during this month and the next, as it is impossible that such grounds can produce advantageously while the roots of the plants are continually subjected to be immersed in water. Many fields which, because of the superabundance of water, are difficult of culture and yield indifferently well, would, if drained, be greatly improved both in texture and product.

Sprouting and Suckering.—There is no month in the year so well adapted to this work as the present, so if you have any to do see that it be done before it expires.

Turnips.—If you have not done so already get your turnips in without delay. Soak your seed in fish oil 12 hours, after which drain off the oil and take two parts plaster and one of flour of sulphur, sprinkle the mixture over the seed and sow them promptly thereafter. Turnip seed thus prepared will germinate quickly, grow fast, and we believe be preserved from the ravages of the fly, at all events such has been the effect of this process with us. The best soil to grow turnips on is a rich loam, the newer the better—the best manure is a compost of cow-dung and ashes, 3 parts of the former to 1 of the latter. The ground should be ploughed deep and pulverized as fine as possible, and the roller should invariably follow the seed as soon as they are harrowed in.

Buckwheat.—This grain, whether intended to be ploughed in, or for grain, may still be sown as late as the 10th of this month.

Sheep.—As the Gad fly plays havock with sheep this month, you should place in a trough accessible to your flock a mixture of *tar* and *salt*, where they may at their leisure lick the salt and smear their noses with the tar. If you follow this prescription, your sheep will not only escape worms in the head, but be greatly improved in their health.

Cows and Heifers.—Two year old heifers should be served during this month—and if within your power see that the bull is of one of the improved breeds—Durham, Devon, Ayrshire or Hereford. Your Cows and Heifers, if served this month will come in in the month of May next, when your pastures will supply them with a full supply of succulent food.

Weeds.—See that the whole tribe of weeds be destroyed during the early part of this month—convey them to your pig pens or barn yards (if the seeds be not ripe) and let your stock work them into manure for you. If the seeds of the weeds be sufficiently matured to vegetate, it would be best to burn the weeds, and thus get rid of their increase.

Salt for Stock.—Salt your stock of all kinds twice a week.

Passing from the farm and its concerns, let us with a view of seeing what is to be done there, take a walk

IN THE GARDEN,

For although there is not a great deal to be done this month in a garden which has been well attended to, there are still things to be looked to, which should not be neglected, and it shall now be our province to point out what we think ought to be done.

Cabbage plants.—Those who may not have already done so, should forthwith plant out their cabbage plants.

Strawberry Beds.—Let these be weeded, cleaned of the runners, and have fresh straw or tanners bark put between the rows, to maintain moisture and keep down the growth of weeds. By destroying the weeds *now*, your beds will be much easier kept clean next spring.

Celery.—Avail yourself of the first wet season, to put out your celery plants, and be sure to keep them well watered, should drought occur until they are well set and begin to grow.

Early Cabbages.—Keep your beds of cabbages clear of weeds and the earth well stirred.

Asparagus Beds.—Cut down the tops and clean off the weeds from your beds, then stir the earth between the rows, and dig in with a fork some rich compost.

Beans and Peas, for late use, may now be planted, with a certainty of their furnishing a supply for family use or market.

Radishes, Lettuce, and all kinds of *small salading*, may now be sown.

Brussels Sprouts.—This is one of the earliest sprouts of spring, and may be said to be among the most palatable. Those who delight in the luxuries of the table, should, during this month,—and the sooner the better—sow a small bed for family use; their culture is easily achieved. All that is necessary to be done, is, to select a good loamy bed, being dry, manure it well, spade in the manure, rake the earth fine, and sow the seed broadcast, as thick as one would sow cabbage seed—no further culture will be necessary. The Brussels Sprouts are perfectly hardy, will stand the winter without injury, and afford for many weeks in early spring a delicious supply of greens.

Early Yorks.—If you wish to secure for your family a supply of early cabages next summer, about the 20th of this month prepare a bed on your border, by manuring it well with rotten manure, digging and raking it well, then sow a few ounces of good seed, embracing a few varieties of the early cabbages. To prevent the plants being destroyed by the flies, soak the seed in fish oil for 12 hours, drain off the oil, and mix equal parts of ashes, plaster and sulphur with the seed, so as to dry and separate them; then sow, rake them in, and press down the earth with the back of your spade. At the proper time for planting them out, we will instruct you as to the best mode of doing so, to secure them against the frosts of winter.

Canteloupes, Melons, &c.—Those who wish to secure a supply of these for *mangoes* and *pickling*, should plant out a few hills in a good exposure.

Spinach.—Sow a bed of this delicious vegetable

the first week in this month, and it will be fit for use in September and October.

Herbs.—Medicinal, as well as Culinary herbs, should be cut this month, dried in the *shade*, and tied up for future use.

Care of the Beds.—See that every *bed* in your garden, and all its *borders*, are rid of weeds—let none of them go to seed.

Budding.—This is the proper time for either budding or innoculating peaches, nectarines, almonds, apples, pears and apricots.

Carnations and Pinks.—The *layers* and *pipings* of these if sufficiently rooted, may be planted out; nor is it yet too late to lay both down; the ground however should be kept moderately moist about them until they are well rooted.

Crocuses, Colchicums, Narcissus, Amaryllises and other flowering bulbs, as *Crown Imperials, Snowdrops, Spring Crocuses, Lillies*, and *Irises*, should be planted out.

Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Shaddocks, &c. may be budded early this month. In budding, be careful to take the buds from shoots produced in the early part of the present season.

Watering.—See that every plant and shrub in your garden is moderately supplied with water in all seasons of drought, observing to have the water poured over them about sun-down.

With these brief hints we will close our monthly talk, not forgetting to remind every farmer and planter, who may be the father of a family, that among those things which are *passions* with him, in bold relief, should stand *the passion* for a well arranged, well filled, well cultivated and tasteful garden, in which it should be his pride to have every choice vegetable and most of the flowers; for if there be any thing which, *next* to a good *wife*, can bind man to his home, it is such a garden as we have described.

THE LAUREL FACTORY.—In company with a couple of friends we paid a flying visit to the *Laurel Factory*, upon business, some weeks since, and it so happened, that it was just at that season above all others, when a man of our temperament and inclinations could enjoy the beautiful scenery which there abound the most—for it was when that queen of flowers, the *Rose*, and its lovely handmaid, the *Honeysuckle*, were in the fulness of their blooms, filling the air with their delicious scents, and presenting to the eye of the floral lover a sight upon which it could dwell with an admiration bordering on extacy. But that we may be fully understood, and that our readers may know what connection there is between *flowers* and the *Laurel Factory*—in order that they may know how possible it is for a man of taste, who has the command of means, and possesses enterprise, to weave a charm even around so unpoetic a place as a cotton factory, we will embody such a description of the *Laurel* as our brief visit will enable us to give; for although we were busy the hour we spent there, in taking notes, there was so much to be seen and admired, that we can only be expected to present but an imperfect likeness of the original—a likeness so despoiled of its fair proportions, by the hurried manner in which the materials were collected, that we fear the resemblance will be any thing than striking.

In 1836, a period of only nine years, Col. Capron came into possession of the farm on which the Laurel Factory is established: it is situated about midway between Baltimore and Washington, about a quarter of a mile to the right of the Washington Rail-Road. Like many other old Maryland farms, when it came into Col. C's. possession it was worn out. Its fields having been robbed of their fertility by successive crops of *Corn* and *Tobacco*, unaided by manure. To speak in the sober language of truth, the farm was then only valuable for its fine water power. Since then, however, by dint of perseverance, by the liberal use of various fertilizers, and judicious culture, he has covered those so recent sterile acres with verdure so rich as to give assurance that the soil, in gratitude for the kindly interest of its present owner, is about to return to those wonted capacities which marked its virgin powers.

Though the culture of the earth was a secondary consideration with Col. *Capron*, the attention he has thus far bestowed upon it has notably served to improve the general aspect of the beautiful village, which he has, in so short a period, brought into existence, and we have no doubt, that the good example which he has set—the evidence he has afforded, of the facility, by good culture, with which the earth may be restored to fruitfulness—will exert a most beneficent influence upon his neighbors—for such success as have attended his efforts cannot fail to excite a spirit of laudable ambition among them.

Besides the mansion house in which Col. Capron resides, which is situated upon an eminence, surrounded by a fine lawn and garden, filled with ornamental trees, shrubbery and flowers, he has erected 50 blocks of two story stone houses, each competent for four families. To *each* of these is attached a vegetable garden in the rear, with a beautiful yard in front, tastefully laid out in *parterres* of choice flowers. These houses accommodate a population of 2000 souls, all of whom derive support from Col. Capron's factory, where from 700 to 800 find constant and lucrative employment, a large portion of whom are females. That those who labor for him may not be without the means of intellectual, moral, and religious instruction, Col. Capron has erected a school-house, which he has provided at his own expense with a competent *teacher*—here the children receive their education gratuitously, while their parents and other relations are liberally paid for their work in his factory. A Catholic chapel, and a Methodist Meeting House, have been erected by him, which are well attended on the sabbath.

Of the hands employed in his factory and machine shop, about 150 of them are males, who average $1¼

per day; the foremen of rooms receive $2 a day. The females, according to their age and employment, receive from $12 to $20 per month, being an average of $16 a month. The *board* of the men, is $10 per month, *that* of the females, from $5 to $6. From the data here furnished, it will be seen that the *pay* of the establishment is upon the most liberal footing, it being the policy of its worthy and enlightened proprietor to place it within the power of his hands to lay by something for a rainy day. We were pleased to learn, that many of the girls had each already, saved from their earnings many hundred dollars, which was safely invested. The factory consumes 3000 lbs. of cotton daily, which, as one pound of the raw material will make 3¼ yards, the manufacture is equal to 10,000 yards a day, or 60,000 a week. As Col. Capron pays well, he can always command the best workmen, and it is not saying aught too much in his praise, when we state, that the fabrics of the Laurel enjoy a very high reputation. The monthly pay-roll of the establishment, amounts to between 8 and 9,000 dollars.

We have thus rapidly sketched the facts connected with the Laurel Factory, and without intending to mix them up with politics, we may be permitted to address a few remarks to our southern brethren, upon the policy of establishing among themselves similar establishments, sufficient in numbers and capacity, to supply the home demand. That slave labor, directed by competent white foremen, would be found adequate to the task of fabricating goods, we have not the slightest doubt. But independent of slave labor, there are but few neighborhoods where factories might be established, where numerous poor white families might not be found, to whom such employment would be highly beneficial.

A prejudice, we are aware, exists in the South against factory labor—we are aware, that it is looked upon as menial employment—as the prolific source of disease and immorality,—and therefore, to all who thus think and believe, we will remark, that they labor under a most lamentable *delusion*—and here pray leave to assure them, that, if they could with us have looked upon the pretty, rosy-cheeked, and modest behaved girls of *Laurel*—have witnessed the perfect order and decorum which prevailed, all their prejudices would have been dispelled by the force of unerring truth,—for we do not believe that the same number of females can be selected any where, whether in country, or town, whose appearance and deportment would be more indicative of good health and sound morals; and we will venture the assertion, that in no country are the daughters of peasants or farmers, nearly as well clad. We think the females whom we saw engaged at work, in the several stories of the factory, must have numbered between 6 and 7 hundred, and although we observed their countenances with that view, we saw but one who bore the appearance of impaired health—and all were dressed genteelly and in excellent taste.

We have mentioned the flower gardens in front of the workmen's houses, and we must not forget to state that in front of the Factory, Col. *Capron* has displayed exquisite taste and a love of the beautiful, in the devotion of about a third of an acre of ground to a flower garden, where shrubbery and flowers, and gravel-walks and green plats, present a contrast so rich and varied, that Shenstone, could he revisit the earth, might envy the possessor. Nor are the ladies of the factory behind their public spirited employer; for every window-sill was studded with pots of rare plants, whose blooms were only equalled in beauty by the *living* roses and *lilies* which *bloomed* around them.

We left the Laurel with the impression, that it was one of the best arranged communities we had ever been in, and the loveliest spot which we had ever beheld.

As the lovely spot receded from our sight, we felt disposed to exclaim with Spencer, in his description of the Bower of Bliss:

"Here the most dainty paradise on ground
Itself doth offer to his sober eye,
In which all pleasures plenteously abound,
And none does others' happiness envy;
The painted flowers, the trees upshooting high;
The dales for shades, the hills for breathing space;
The trembling groves, the crystal running by;
And that which all fair works doth most aggrace,
The art, which all that wrought, appeared in no place.
One would have thought, (so cunningly the rude
And scorned parts were mingled with the fine,)
That nature had for wantonness ensued
Art, and art at Nature did repine;
So, striving each th' other to undermine,
Each did the other's work more beautify,
So differing both in wills agreed in fine:
So all agreed, through sweet diversity,
This *spot* to adorn with all variety."

A NEW DESTROYER.—The Martinsburg, Va. Gazette says that a new and very destructive cornworm made its appearance about twelve months ago on the farm of a gentleman near that place. Its ravages then did not extend more than a rod across the narrowest part of a field; but this year they have extended over the entire field, and into one of a different description of soil, adjoining it. "It may be discovered," remarks the editor of the Gazette, "by its blighting influence upon the corn so soon as the plant has attained a week's growth; it is then quite small, but grows rapidly until it has attained the size of one of our largest orchard caterpillars. Its attack is fatal to the plant. Those specimens of the insect particularly examined by us, were taken from stocks from two to two and a half feet high. It was easy to perceive upon the first view of them that some destructive worm was feeding at their core. Their tops were withered and had fallen. Upon a close examination of the plant we observed, about three inches from the ground, a small perforation extending into the heart of the stock, upon opening which we found the worm actively at work—the whole of the inner substance of the plant, for two or three inches, entirely consumed, with nothing there left but a dark colored excrement of a somewhat pungent smell."

Brinkleyville Vineyards.

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

After the lapse of several years, and in answer to enquiries, it gives me unfeigned pleasure to hear from you, and your still most usefully extended pioneer of all American Agricultural periodicals. One of the last numbers of the expiring current volume of the weekly American Farmer, which you kindly forwarded me lately, in connection with your letter alluded to, serves to convince me of the *primitive* ability and industry of rendering the "American Farmer," a most useful and interesting medium of intercourse among all cultivators of American soil, its patrons and readers. In accordance with modern usage as to like works, and the cheapness thereby to be a very moderate tax only on all subscribers, I commend your contemplated change of monthly instead of weekly numbers in a forthcoming volume. Indeed this suits me in particular; for although I take others, as the "Cultivator," I can afford now to take yours again also. And as formerly a contributor to the American Farmer, I will again essay to do what most or many should, viz: throw in occasionally a *mite* of experience on some subject, to be *inserted* or *thrown under the table*, according to your judgment and good taste.

As having formerly in yours, and more recently in other periodicals, advocated my "*American system*" *of Vine Culture and Wine making*, I concluded to drop you a few lines this time, on that subject. I remark then, that so far as success is a criterion of the utility of any system, I am *encouraged* to *encourage* others to try said "American System," if only on a moderate scale at first. I here repeat the outline of the System, viz.—to select the most unexceptionable native American grapes. And with the culture, of keeping ground clean and loose, and vines trimmed in fall and summer, till ready to spread over scaffolding, to afterward suffer them to expand unchecked, to make a beautiful thick canopy; under which, unobstructed, (save by posts to support the poles or lath above) may freely pass the *wind*, the cultivator or plow, and say folks, *horses* and *carts*.

This is especially the plan as to the famous North Carolina native, the *Scuppernong*. But as a modification thereof, as to other approved kinds, as *Norton's Virginia Seedling*, Weller's Halifax, and colored grapes generally, I use for a few years of first culture, the trellis fashion of posts and pegs therein at due distances, (after beginning 4 or 5 feet from the ground) and slanting upwards, to hold the poles to which the branches of the vines are fastened. My posts generally, are ten feet distant each way. To help to keep my vineyards free from under growth and fertile, I constantly keep swine therein, which, are partly kept in order by the falling fruit. But as a chief resource of keeping up fertility without manuring direct, I carefully scarify the ground before expected frosts, to cause the leaves to fall, and after they have fallen, as carefully, ere they are blown away, they are harrowed in or incorporated with the soil. The hint for this I took from nature's plan of keeping up and increasing the richness of soil in the woods.

With these and other plans and operations, mostly differing from European vineyards, I may say, with truth, if not without vanity, I believe I have now the most productive vineyards (about 6 acres of larger and smaller vines) of any in our State, which you know excelled all the rest in the agricultural product of wine in the last national census. I made about 30 barrels last season, and from present appearances expect an increase of ten at least the coming vintage. For while pears, apples, peaches, and most other fruit in this region were destroyed by the hard frost on the night of the 8th of April last, our vineyards were not injured in product. The striking advantage as to surety of a grape crop south, is, that the vines generally are too late putting forth to be injured by frosts, and if some early putting forth vines be nipped, still a new growth will produce well, as the fruit of vines always are formed on the fresh grown branches of the season.

As to my process of wine making, I will, if you desire it, detail it again; as also the particular kinds of vines which are good in all respects with us, and free from rot and other discouraging casualties. I would just remark, however, here, that some kinds of American or native vines so called, as well as most European, are subject to rotting though otherwise excellent. And one in particular is the Warren, or denominated "Herbement's Madeira," from the late Mr. Herbement, who gave it notoriety. I can quote, if desired, from the valued communications of Mr. H. himself, in the columns of the old American Farmer, where he calls his grape, or the one in question, the Warren, and declares it a tantalizing grape, because of its proneness to rot, and totally disappointing expectation as to a crop. And years since after Mr. H. published his treatise on wine making, &c. in the American Farmer, (then edited by Mr. G. B. Smith, I believe,) several in Maryland, as I understood, tried the grape, with disappointment like my own. True, I have the grape in culture still, and some seasons it does finely,—but I have no dependence on it whatever, for either a crop or wine product. I name here this grape in particular, because I perceive in some prints it is lauded under the revived name of the Warren. And Mr. R. Sinclair, Jr. of your place ordered some vines of the kind from my establishment last spring, which I forwarded with some remarks like the foregoing, in answer to his enquiries for the friend who got him to send the order.

I consider it as much the province of an agricultural periodical to be instrumental in warning against the *drawbacks* as to any agricultural product, as to declare its *excellencies*; to notify hoped for advantages on the one hand; and to prevent disappointed expectation on the other.

Mr. Herbement made a most excellent wine of said grape, that then sold for 2 or 3 dollars per gallon, according to process of making, as a red or white wine. And I would here remark, that from my Halifax and most other coloured grapes, I make a wine of almost any colour according to peculiarity of process, that is from the darkest to the lightest red—or no colour at all; since the akin in most cases is the entire source of colouring.

To conclude, I am encouraged to persevere in the vineyard business from increasing patronage, and from the encomiums on my wines from various sections of the country, as proving more unequivocally medicinal, and otherwise excellent, than most foreign wines. This I aver fearless of contradiction by chemical trial, that I use no deleterious ingredient or artificial fining; and that mine is indeed the pure juice of the grape—bating the best of sugar or purest of spirits added in most cases (one or the other) to ensure the keeping. Lately I received a letter from a gentleman of Natchez, Miss. (to whom I had sent a bottle of my Scuppernong in a box of vines,) who stated that intelligent gentlemen of an Agricultural

Society there, or near the town, met, pronounced what they called my *Scuppernong Champagne*, first rate wine. A like praise was bestowed upon it by the members of the American Institute last year, as I learned from its secretary, Mr. G. B. Boswell, to whom I had transmitted bottles of wine, as well as vines.

By rates of 15 to 50 dollars per barrel according to ingredients, process of making, age and kind, I have sold a number of barrels of my wine months past, with an increasing demand. And last fall, winter and spring, I got ready sale for several hundred dollars worth of rooted vines and cuttings which I had to spare; so that I am encouraged to go more largely into that and the nursery business generally.

After persevering trials, (I beg leave to add,) and losses by the silk business, I have been constrained to abandon it altogether; considering that crop too percarious, owing to the sudden and great vicissitudes of weather in our Southern climates. I rejoice to learn however, that they are succeeding very well northerly, in silk culture. The North for silk and South for wine, is the result of my experience and information. But I fear I am going beyond the bounds of a promised short communication, and desist at last with assurances of heartfelt desires for the increased prosperity of the *monthly* "American Farmer"—or if permitted, will say to it in the language in the East to new reigning sovereigns—"O! American Farmer, live forever!!"

Yours, &c. in haste,

SIDNEY WELLER.

Brinkleyville, Halifax Co. N. C., June 18, 1845.

THE FARMER'S LIFE.

BEMENT'S AMER. HOTEL,
Albany, June 12, 1845.

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

Dear Sir:—Your esteemed favor of the 6th of May last, was received by due course of mail, and when I inform you that my avocations have been such, for the last year, that I have hardly had time to answer my business letters, I am confident that you will not impute this delay to negligence. Notwithstanding I have left my farm for an Hotel in the city, I assure you I feel just as lively an interest in farming and every thing relating thereto, as I did when I resided on it. And why should I not? I still carry it on, and retain the general supervision, but cannot of course, give it that personal attention it requires to keep up with the improvements of the day.

You ask me to give you "a paper upon any subject of general interest to the farmer." Now if you think the following hints, which have been thrown together at such intervals as I could snatch from my business, of sufficient interest to occupy a space in your paper, they are at your service.

Writers of all ages have been lavish in their praises of the important pursuits of the husbandman. The waving and flowery fields, the lowing herds, the bleating flock, the rural cottage, and the domestic fireside, have furnished orators and poets with their brightest images. But while they have thus been lavish of their panegyrics, few of them have descended from their elevation to handle the plow, and nourish the plants, which produce all these beautiful images.

The pleasures of rural nature are consistent with every period of our lives; and they certainly approach the nearest of all others to those of the purely philosophically kind. Those who are partial to the country; and where is the man of genius who feels not a delight, approaching to extacy, from the contemplation of its scenery, and the happiness which its cultivation diffuses? those who have paid attention to the process of husbandry, and who view its occurrences with interest; who are at the same time alive to all the minutiæ of the animal and vegetable creation; who mark "how nature paints her colors, how the bee sits on the bloom, extracting liquid sweets," will derive from the study of nature a gratification the most permanent and pure.

Perhaps to no man or class of men is the value of observation so great as to the farmer. His business is principally with material objects. His occupation leads him in many things to imitate or follow nature. But the laws of nature are learned only by watching the silent process and the silent operations which are going on, and thus ascertaining the causes which produce the effects which we see taking place around us. The man who watches closest—who suffers no change to take place without looking into the cause—who in fine, observes the most, and treasures up the most in his memory, becomes most acquainted with the laws before spoken of, and by consequence is the best farmer. Although the observations which have been made and recorded by others, have become a large fund of valuable information, there is yet a vast deal more to learn.

Facts are yet in the dark which can only be elicited by observation. Nature developes in the spontaneous growth of vegetation, important facts, which if attended to carefully will be found highly instructive.

Farmers, therefore, should cultivate their minds as well as their fields. They can gain as rich rewards in the mental, as they can reap profitable harvests in the natural world. Without learning a man cannot be a first rate farmer. Without intelligence he cannot discharge in proper manner, the duties of a citizen. Agriculture is a science that requires experience and study. But science will never make a good farmer without the admixture of practical knowledge. Though science has very materially aided the progress of agriculture, it is after all, materially owing to the strict observation of practical results, that the most solid advantages have been obtained. For this object experience of practical farmers is invaluable. By comparing the results of their practice, general facts have been established.

There are few avocations in life which are more useful or which furnish more subjects for reflection, than those of the farmer; and if rightly understood, there are none, in my opinion, that are so well calculated to improve the mind and to mend the heart. Agriculture as a science, is becoming more important, and more honorable. The intelligent and independent farmer is ever respected; he holds an important and responsible station in society. Upon him devolves many duties. Upon him rests many obligations. In him we look for examples in patriotism, virtue and intelligence.

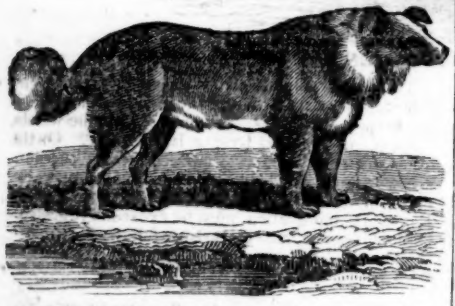
The employments of agriculture, are most congenial and pleasing to human nature. The occupations of the farmer are most favorable to health, to repose, and to innocence. An uncorrupted mind sees, in the progress of vegetation, and the habits and dispositions, and uses of those animals which man has subjected to his sway, charms and beauties which the objects of art can seldom afford.

Though farming may rank among the rational amusements, it cannot, under present circumstances, be looked to as a source of wealth; its profits under

the most favorable circumstances must be small, and can only be secured by hard labor, persevering industry and extreme frugality, and the strictest economy. But the farmer's gains are honest gains. What he gets, he gets not at the expense of suffering or loss of others, but as the lawful fruits of his own industry and toil.

Truly, yours,
CALEB N. BEMENT.

THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.



This animal is amongst the most useful, performing frequently what is beyond the power of man to do, not only for his greater agility, but from his superiority in some of the senses. In some cases a number of men would be required to perform what is accomplished by one dog in attending sheep. We copy the following interesting article from a history of the dog lately published in England, which gives some of the characteristic traits of this intelligent and highly valuable animal:—*Boston Cultivator.*

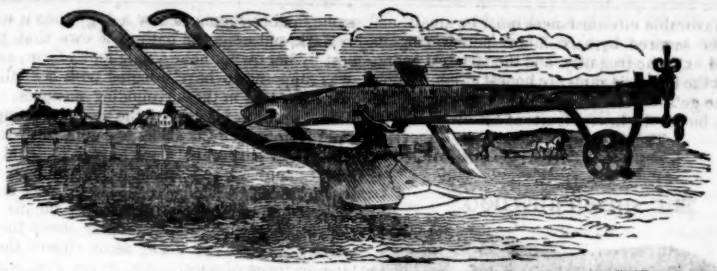
The shepherd's dog in his own department is a perfect miracle of intelligence. He understands the sign, the voice, the look of his master. He collects the scattered sheep at the slightest signal, separates any one that is indicated from the rest of the flock, drives them all the while under perfect control, less by his active exertions than by the modulations of his voice, which express every tone from gentle instruction to angry menace. These are his ordinary performances, visible every day in a thousand pastures. But he can do greater wonders. It chanced one night that seven hundred lambs, committed to the keeping of the Ettrick Shepherd, broke loose from his control and scampered away in three divisions over hill and plain. "Sirrah, my man," said Hogg mournfully to his *colly*, meaning it for an expression of grief, and not for a direction, "they're awa." Silently and without his master's knowledge, for it was too dark to see, the dog left his side, while the shepherd passed the hours till morning in a weary and fruitless search after his wandering charge. At the dawn of day he was about to return to his employer with a heart full of despair, when he caught a sight of Sirrah guarding at the bottom of a deep ravine, not, as he first supposed, one division of the lambs, but the whole of the vast flock, without a solitary exception. "It was," says James Hogg, "the most extraordinary circumstance that had ever occurred in my pastoral life. How he had got all the divisions collected in the dark is beyond my comprehension. The charge was left entirely to himself, from midnight to the rising of the sun, and if all the shepherds in the forest had been there to have assisted him, they could not have effected it with greater propriety." On another occasion the same famous shepherd saw a dog, when it was utterly dark, put upon the path of a ewe that had been lost by her owner near a neighbor's farm, and which was supposed to have mingled with her fellows that were feeding in the surrounding pastures. "Chieftain," said the master of the dog, pointing to the spot from which the sheep had gone off, "fetch that, I say, Sir—bring that back; away!" And away he went, and back he brought in half an hour the identical sheep. A sheep-stealer, who was at last discovered and hanged, used to carry on his trade by secretly signifying the particular sheep that he desired out of a large flock, as he viewed them under the pretence of purchasing, to his dog, who returning by himself, a distance of several miles, at night, drove the selected sheep, which was undoubtedly the fattest, to his fastidious owner. Both Scott and Hogg relate this picturesque story more circumstantially from the annals of the Justiciary Court in Scotland. Sir Thomas Wilde knew an instance in which three oxen out of some score had mingled with another herd. "Go fetch them," was all the instruction the drover gave his dog, and he instantly brought along with him those very three. A cattle dealer accustomed to drive his beasts for nine miles to Alston, in Cumberland, once for a wager he sent them along with his dog. The animal perfectly understood his commission. He kept the straight road, ran when he came to a strange drove to the head of his own to stop their progress, put the beasts that blocked the path upon one side, then went back to the rear to hie on his charge, and thus adroitly steering his way and keeping his herd together, he carried them safely to the destined yard, and signified their arrival by barking at the door of the dwelling.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

On Wednesday the 14th inst., Mr. Bencraft, a gentleman residing in Devonshire, attended the weekly meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, at their house in Hanover-square, and presented the council with specimens of his newly invented agricultural and driving hames, and elastic saddle. The principle of the former invention transfers the draught from the hitherto injurious position, (at the point of the shoulder) to the withers or front of the spine, thereby imparting a great increase of muscular power to the horse over his load, giving him the entire and free use of his fore-limbs, and at the same time protecting him from the sufferings of galled shoulders. Many of the first veterinary surgeons in the country having acknowledged that these benefits are secured by Mr. Bencraft's invention; the use of it having already released many horses from their sufferings, it is with great pleasure we recommend it to the public,—and looking at the subject, whether regarded on the score of utility or humanity, we consider Mr. Bencraft entitled to the thanks of the community, and we rejoice to hear that his inventions are warmly patronized by that excellent institution, "the Royal Society for the prevention of cruelty to Animals." The saddle, which is already in extensive use, affords a mechanical protection to the spine, and dorsal muscles, thereby enabling the horse to carry his rider with increased facility and speed, and at the same time affording a delightfully elastic seat to the rider, by which concussion and fatigue are almost wholly removed.

Eng. paper.

Agriculture improves the soil and mind.



THE BOSTON SELF-SHARPENING CENTRE-DRAUGHT PLOW.

For the American Farmer.

This Plough, confessedly "the best Plough in the country," manufactured by Prouty & Co. of Boston, of the best materials—Massachusetts Oak and Cast steel points and shares—is warranted to perform alike in old or new land, sod ground, stubble, clay or sand, in a manner quite superior to all others, and at an expense of about one cent per acre for Blacksmith's bills. The new gearing, the sole invention of the patentees, permitting the plough to be changed to a three horses a breast, a double, or single horse plough, in a moment of time, and securing a steadiness of draught that enables a child to manage her.

The centre-draught Plough took the first premiums at the Baltimore County Agricultural meeting, and the Prince George's meeting, in Maryland. The three premiums of ten dollars each, at New Castle county Society's meeting, and two premiums at the St. George's society's meeting, at Cantwell's Bridge, Delaware; and the first premium, at the Philadelphia, Newtown, and Carlisle Agricultural meetings, in Pennsylvania, the past year; having taken the premium in every trial at which she has been entered, for the last two years: while the following testimony has been awarded to her merit by his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, who, having ordered a comparative test of her qualifications to be made with the best Ploughs in his dominions, has declared her superiority to all, by the award of a Gold Medal of "massive size," according to the following notice, published in the Boston Journal of June 13th:

An Imperial Compliment.—We saw to day a beautiful gold medal, of massive size, which has recently been sent to Mr. Jno. Mears, Jr., of this city, from the Emperor Nicholas, of Russia.—It seems that last year Mr. Mears, aware of the interest which the Emperor takes in aught which relates to improvements in agriculture, sent him a fine specimen of the "Boston Centre Draught Plough," manufactured by Messrs. D. Prouty & Co., a kind of plough whose excellence is well known to our readers. A short time since, the medal alluded to, with the accompanying letter, was received from the Russian Minister at Washington:

Washington, 20th May, 1845.

Sir,—The Plough you intended to present to the Emperor has been received, and its usefulness acknowledged. His Imperial Majesty, appreciating your good intentions, has ordered me to present to you in his name the great gold medal, with his effigy, and the motto, "*Praemia Digno.*"

I have the pleasure to send to you this medal by Mr. Keller, in a paquet under the Legation's seal. Please to inform me of the reception of the medal, and receive, Sir, the assurances of my sincere regard. Alex. de Bodisco.

John Mears, Esq., Boston.

The medal, which weighs fifteen ounces, is on one side stamped with a fine likeness, in bold relief, of the Emperor Nicholas, surrounded with the words, "Nicolaus I. Totius Russiæ Imperator." On the other side is the motto, "Praemia Digno," surrounded with a wreath. The medal is of elegant workmanship, and the reception of such a token of the Emperor's approbation, must be exceedingly gratifying to our young and enterprising fellow citizen.

ADVANTAGE OF CRUSHING THE FOOD OF HORSES.

As I have just concluded the experiments you wished, I hasten to forward you the results, which are as follows:

Two horses in good health, in daily work and as nearly as possible equal in size and age, were selected for the experiment. They were each allowed 5 lbs. of oats and a sufficiency of good hay, of which they consumed about 17 lbs. per day each. The only difference in feeding consisted in one horse having the oats thoroughly crushed, and the other without crushing. On the fourth day of this mode of feeding, the solid excrements of each horse were examined. 100 parts of the dung of the horse fed on crushed oats were found to be deprived of all the nutritious matter contained in the food, and to consist of woody fibre, mixed with the animal secretions and some salts; while 100 parts of the dung from the horse fed on uncrushed oats, were found to contain ¼ per cent. of nutritive matter, consisting of starch and gluten, which had not been acted on by the stomach, mixed with the ordinary constituents of the solid excrements of the animal—this arising from the inability of the horse to perform perfect mastication, and must vary with circumstances, such as age and rapidity of feeding. The same horses were then fed with hay, cut and uncut. At the expiration of the third day, the excrements were examined, but no chemical difference in their composition was detected; the food in both instances was found to be equally exhausted of its nutritive matter. But the shorter period occupied by the horse in filling its stomach, and consequently greater amount of rest obtained, and the prevention of waste, by cutting it into chaff, are advantages which require no illustration from me.—*A. Gyde, in London Agr. Gaz.*

Potatoes.—Ezekiel Rich, in the Genesee Farmer, speaking of potato culture, says: "It is a maxim with me, founded on both nature and reason, that where there is placed the most manure, there is needed the most water. How does it seem, then, I ask, in the name of common sense, to put the manure in the hole, and then by hilling up, shed off the water from the very place where you caused it to be the most needed?"

From the Albany Cultivator.

MARYLAND FARMING.

Mr. Editor,—In one of your last letters you requested me to give you a sketch of any farms I might visit in Maryland. Last summer I made a short visit to my friend *Thomas J. Dorsett*, at "Roedown," in Anne Arundel county, West River settlement, Western Shore of Maryland. Mr. Dorsett has 400 acres, 100 wood and 300 arable land, divided into four fields; and he farms on the four course system. First, wheat after clover. Second, corn and tobacco—the latter always on the lightest and driest soil. Third, wheat on the tobacco stubble, and oats on the corn stubble. Fourth, clover. Product, 15 to 20 bushels wheat, 35 to 50 bushels corn, one hogshead tobacco, 40 bushels oats, per acre. Clover is the principal fertilizer. The land is remarkably adapted to clover, and since its introduction, some ten years or more, the land in this region has been progressively improving.

Mr. Dorsett drove me a circuit of twenty-five miles, between South and West river, over a fine undulating country, well farmed; and, with one or two exceptions, the land all laid down in clover, looking almost as well as the western lands of good quality, (for it is not all good, you know.) There are no lanes here, but gates on the public road. We passed through sixty-six of them in a drive of twenty five miles.

Mr. Dorsett has some good stock. I saw two fine blooded brood mares, one of them, a Naragansett, a picture. Her colts are good, and sell for high prices. Also some good grade Durhams, a flock of mixed sheep, cross of the common, Merino, South-Down, and Leicester—forty-eight ewes and two rams. The clip averaged eight pounds and fourteen ounces, unwashed. One ewe that bore lambs for two years, gave a fleece which weighed twelve pounds. Finer mutton I have never tasted than at his table, from his flock.

Mr. Dorsett manages his own farm, and has made it very productive. His sales amounted to $3,300 per annum. Baltimore is the principal market. Butter, and small marketing, is sold at Annapolis. He observes system in all of his farming operations, care of tools, implements, &c.

Doct. Stewart, whose farm adjoins, was from home, which deprived me of the pleasure of seeing him and his large farm of some two thousand acres. It is highly cultivated, as I saw in passing through it. I have made the Doctor a promise to visit him some future time. Slave labor is used in this neighborhood altogether.

Yesterday I returned from a visit to George Patterson, Esq. who resides at "Springfield," twenty-two miles west of this, in Carroll county. He is a wealthy gentleman, and is extensively known for his fine stock, and enterprising character. His farm contains 1735 acres, about 1200 under cultivation, and 500 in woodland. It is rolling land, and well watered—a branch of the Patuxent running through it, supplies water in a grist mill, on the farm, where all the grain raised on the farm is ground for the family and stock. The woodland is admirably located to shelter the many fields from the northwest winds, and presented a beautiful and diversified landscape. The timber was formerly oak, but as it is removed, is supplanted by a spontaneous growth of chestnut and hickory, principally the former. Mr. Patterson has cut out much of the old timber to burn lime, and also with a view to get rid of it to admit the young growth of chestnut.

When Mr. P. took possession of his farm, twenty years since, the land was poor, much of it *very* poor, and barren of vegetation, except *briars*,—with scarcely any buildings. Since then he has put upwards of one hundred and sixty thousand bushels of lime on the land, and erected fifty buildings of various kinds, all permanently and neatly built, and now all yellow washed, presenting in contrast with the green fields and woods, a picturesque appearance. His plan is, whenever a field is brought into cultivation, and made to produce clover for mowing, to erect as many barracks as will hold the hay. These barracks, or barns, are made of frame, some 20 by 30 feet square, 12 or 14 high, weather boarded, and covered with cypress shingles.

Mr. Patterson commences on the poor worn out land by spreading two hundred bushels of lime per acre, (measured at the kiln unslacked,) on the surface, and lets it remain two or three years. Then breaks it up and puts whatever dung he can muster, and plants in corn. The following is his system of rotation:—First year, corn; second year, oats, rye or wheat, and clover sowed in the spring; third year, clover, first year mowed, second crop left on the ground; fourth year, clover either left on the ground or moderately grazed; fifth year, wheat, timothy sowed with wheat; sixth year, timothy mowed; seventh, timothy mowed; eighth year, grazed; ninth year, grazed, and top dressed the four last years. Top dressing he prefers to plowing in the manure of any kind. Lime, he thinks, acts slowly, and does not show much the first year or two, and should be always applied to *grass* and not to fallow. Much of this land is now in a high state of cultivation—producing 20 to 30 bushels wheat, 60 to 80 bushels corn, and two to three tons hay, per acre. The contrast between this farm and some of the adjoining land is wonderful! The one green, and luxuriant in crops; the other barren, and devoid of vegetation, having no green thing except a few low running briars.

This land was also very stony. With the stones Mr. P. has turnpiked several roads across his farm, which enables him to haul wood, lime, and manure in wet weather. He has also applied a portion of these stones to make drains. He makes drains by cutting a ditch four feet deep, and filling two feet with fine broken stones. Swamps and swails heretofore useless, are now made dry, and are among the most productive parts of his land. The fences are in prime order—the few worm fences that he has, are eleven rails high, staked and ridered, and six feet worm. The greater part are post and post and rails—upwards of ten thousand pannel—posts of mountain locust. A few chestnut posts he has been compelled to use, and these he protects from decay by filling round with stone, which drain the water rapidly off.

His barns, where the greater part of the cattle and hogs are fed in winter, are situated on two opposite knolls, and drains are so arranged as to convey the wash from both to permanent meadows adjoining.

His stock is all of the most approved kind, and pure in blood. Of horses, there are several full blood mares, of high pedigree and beauty. "Mary Randolph," a superb mare of rare good points, a gray, has a filly one year old the handsomest creature I ever saw. He has in all some twenty-five or thirty fine horses of various ages. At present, he is about crossing these mares with a large well formed horse, a cross of the Canadian—similar to the Morgan horse—with the view of increasing the size more suitable

for carriage or draft horses. His Devon herd of cattle, about sixty in number, are a rare lot. I had heard of the Devon cattle, and seen the prints representing them; but I had *no idea* of their beauty. The prints, or some of them, are *caricatures*, at least of Mr. Patterson's best cattle. His Bull "Eclipse," inported two or three years since, now five years old, is a perfect gem, the best bull of *any* stock, not excepting my old favorites, the Durhams, that I have ever seen. The cows have fine shaped and well developed udders, and must be good milkers. Mr. Patterson says they give rich milk, and a good deal of it. He has bred his stock with that object; and selected the best milking families. They have size enough—the bull would weigh 1000 lbs. nett beef—the cows are also large enough. They have fine shaped yellow noses, with a ring of the same round the eye—all uniform as so many peas. What will you think if I tell you that this will become the favorite stock before many years? The beef, you know, is celebrated for its fine quality, being so evenly mixed, fat and lean, instead of laying the fat on the surface.

Here I also saw upwards of seventy Berkshire store hogs—*hog fat*, in the clover field—and as many suckling pigs, intended for next year. The sows are allowed but one litter each year, and they all have pigs in May. Mr. P. has a fine flock of sheep—some full blood Downs from the flocks of Mr. Rotch, N. Y., and Cope, of Pennsylvania.

Every thing is done here in the best manner, and all the stock is of the *best*, without regard to price. The whole establishment is well worth one hundred thousand dollars. I have not done credit in the description. Mr. Patterson manages the farm himself—has no white man on the place but himself, and is a pattern in industry and frugality, even to Pennsylvania farmers. His neighbors are beginning to follow his example in the use of lime. A few years hence will have completed Mr. Patterson's plans of improvement, and then he will have the best farm in Maryland.

ISAAC DILTON.

Eutaw House, Baltimore, 20th May, 1845.

From the N. York Albion.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF MANURES.

Professor Hallowell's Experiments to ascertain the comparative efficacy of various Manures.

All the value which experiments in agriculture can derive from great care in conducting them, and from high character for science and exactness on the part of the experimenter, belongs to the following statement. But the best conducted experiments may lead to disappointment when we attempt to imitate them, without acquaintance with the various circumstances which may have influenced the results in any given case, such as climate, soil, temperature, &c.

The residence of Professor Hallowell, near Sandy Spring, in Montgomery county, Maryland, is in latitude 39° 10′ N. The general elevation of the country above the tides of the Potomac is from 400 to 470 feet. The greater elevation, however, has, independent of latitude, a sensible effect, as, at Sandy Spring, grain ripens eight or ten days later than in the vicinity of Washington, at the distance of only twenty miles, and in the same latitude. The soil is, as stated by Mr. H., thin, but from recent experiments, very susceptible of improvement; with well and spring water, the latter very abundant, and as pure, perhaps, as any in the world.

The mean temperature of the region where these experiments have been, and still are in progress, for the *twelve* seasons of the years 1828-'29-'30-and 31. was 51.63, and combining this mean with that produced by monthly observations made with equal care, during the same period, on perennial springs, the mean temperature at Sandy Spring comes out 52.776 deg. or 52¾ deg. Fahrenheit.

The prevailing timber is oak of various species, hickory of various species, Liriodendron or poplar red flowering maple, black gum, &c., underwood the most abundant, dogwood.

The face of the country is moderately hilly, or in parts only rolling, and extremely pleasing to the eye, particularly the well improved farms; in brief, it is a section of our country in a high degree capable of improvement, and we may conclude by saying, that a salutary and regenerating spirit has breathed its influence into the minds of its people, which is giving activity and efficacy to the modes adopted for its melioration. That such influence, with the examples of such a friend of agriculture, and of all *peaceful* and useful arts, will increase, bringing forth good fruits, more and more abundantly, is our wish and confident hope.

In conclusion of these hasty remarks, on some of the exterior circumstances under which the experiments were made, we submit, and invite to the following letter, the particular attention of the reader.

Rockland, Eleventh mo. 22d, 1844.

Esteemed Friend,—In compliance with the request contained in thy letter of the 12th inst., I forward a statement of the results of my experiments with different kinds of manures.

Experiment 1.—On the 20th of the fourth month, 1843, I sowed bone dust, as it is called, on a part of my wheat, at the rate of about six bushels to the acre. The cost of the bones in Baltimore, was forty cents a bushel, and it cost ten cents a bushel to transport them to my farm. The wheat where the bone was put, was not improved by it; but a striking difference was soon perceived in the clover that has been sown among the wheat about three weeks before the bone. In the first mowing the past summer, there was amply sufficient, where the bone had been put, above what was on the adjacent parts, to pay for the bone, and all the trouble of putting it on; and the second crop gave me an excellent crop of seed, while on the parts where the bone was not put, there was no seed worth gathering. The seed is not got out yet, but several of my friends who are considered good judges in such matters, thought there would be more seed than would pay for the first cost of the bone.

Experiment 2.—At the same time I sowed bone on my wheat, I sowed some at the rate of six bushels per acre on my oats, which had been put in ten days before, and sowed with clover. There was a great increase in the oats, both in the size of the straw and in the quantity and weight of the grain; and the clover the past season was several times over more abundant where the bone was put than where there was none. There is no question that the first cost of the bone was fully returned in the additional quantity of oats that resulted from its application.

Experiment 3.—On the 2d of the fifth month, 1843, I put a bushel of the bone at the rate of six bushels per acre, on four rows of my corn hills, by dropping the corn, then putting the bone on it, and covering both up together. The difference in the appearance was manifest through the summer. When we gath-

ered the corn, we kept these four rows, and the four rows on the one side, and the four rows on the other, all separate. From the four rows where the bone was put, there were two and three quarter flour barrels full of real good ears, and half barrel of short corn; while from the four rows on each side, there was a scant flour barrel full of good ears, and three-quarters of a flour barrel of short corn. This gave me more than one and a half flour barrels full of good corn for a bushel of bone, or fifty cents, besides there being more than double the quantity of fodder where the bone was put.

Experiment 4.—On the 3d of the tenth month, 1843, I put in my wheat, on one part of which I put 15 bushels of bone per acre, on another part 30 bushels of finely ground charcoal per acre, on another stable manure, on another a coating of wheat straw, and a part was left without anything. The bone and charcoal were sown broadcast, and harrowed in with the wheat. The charcoal did no good whatever, either to the wheat, or the clover that was sown amongst it, the part where the charcoal was, and that where nothing was put, alike not producing as much wheat as was sown on it, and they are now bare of clover, while I had fifteen bushels of wheat per acre, where the bone was put, and a luxuriant growth of clover, a large portion of which headed out, and filled well with seed. The wheat was larger, and the heads better filled, and the clover larger where the bone was put, than where the ground was dressed with stable manure. The wheat straw did *some* good, but comparatively little.

Experiment 5.—On the 26th of the third month, 1844, I put in my oats and clover, dressing the ground, except a small part, with ten bushels of bone to the acre. On one half the ground the bone was harrowed in with the oats, on the other half the bone was sown on the top after the harrowing. The crop of oats were greatly increased where the bone was put, but it was much best on that part where it had been harrowed in. The yield, however, was not so great as last year, which I attribute partly to the drier season this year.—The clover is far better where the bone had been, than it was on the part left for experiment without anything.

Experiment 6.—On the 24th of the fourth month, 1844, I planted my corn, putting poudrette in the hills at the rate of one and a half barrels per acre, and covering it up with the corn. I left a few rows for experiment without any, which were decidedly inferior to the others in the number and size of the ears, and the size of the stalks. Also, that which had been dressed with poudrette, ripened considerably earlier—I should think at least ten days. The beneficial effects of the poudrette were much the most remarkable on the part of the field where the land was poorest—indeed, on a small part where the ground was very good, I was scarcely able, at pulling time, to see any difference.

Experiment 7.—On the 19th of the ninth month, 1844, I put in my wheat, four contiguous acres of which were manured as follows, viz:—one with 200 lbs. of guano, finely pulverized, and mixed the previous day with about an equal bulk of plaster of paris; another with 16 bushels of bone; a third with four barrels of poudrette, and the fourth with a mixture of all these, and a small part was left without anything. The manures were all harrowed in with the wheat. The rest of my wheat ground was dressed with bone. The cost of the manure on each of these four experiment acres was the same, viz: $8 per acre. A marked difference is visible at this time in favour of that which was dressed with guano and plaster, and it all looks much better than that which was left without manure. The guano was obtained of Samuel K. George, of Baltimore, at $3 per 100 lbs. I mixed it with plaster, to remove a part of its acrid quality that might injure the young germ, and also to condense the volatile portions and render the sowing of it less unpleasant. It cost me 30 cents per 100 lbs. to get the guano hauled from Baltimore, 28 miles. The poudrette got of J. Tatum, cost $1 50 per barrel in Philadelphia, and 50 cents a barrel to get it here by the way of the District of Columbia. At my farm the bone stands me in 50 cents a bushel, guano $3 30 per 100 lbs; poudrette $2 per barrel, and plaster $1 30 per barrel. The benefit of plaster, as far as I have tried it, is very small indeed, if any. My land is, however, very poor, mostly a stiff clay, full of white flint stone. Yet it seems very susceptible of improvement, and I am in hopes that when I shall get it a little more improved, the effects of plaster will be more manifest. I have made no experiment till the present fall, to determine the comparative value of bone and guano. My impression is, however, that while the effects of guano may be more striking in the first crop, bone will be more lasting. The experiments with guano and bone, as given in several agricultural publications, are by no means satisfactory to me, because they give a statement of the produce of only the first crop after the application of the manures, where guano, from being in a state more ready to be immediately assimilated in the growing vegetable, would possess a decided advantage over bone, which is in a coarse state principally. The different crops from the time the manures are applied till the ground is broken up again, and the condition and quality of the ground when then broken up, should all be taken into account in making up the estimate of the comparative value of different manures. It is to this end that I am instituting my experiments. I may state, in conclusion, that I have no doubt the effects of bone dust and guano, are much more striking upon old worn out lands, such as these to which I have applied them, than they would be to those that are richer. Indeed it is reasonable that lands which have been long cropped, without having had anything returned to them, must evidently become deprived of phosphate of lime and other inorganic materials, which, existing in but small quantities in soils, are yet indispensably necessary to the growth of grains and nutritious vegetables. And although such soils may contain every other ingredient necessary to vegetable growth, yet wanting the phosphate of lime, grains, clover, &c., which contain this, could not grow till it is applied in bone dust or something of the kind. So of other inorganic elements which enter into the vegetable economy.

It would give me great pleasure indeed, to have an opportunity of *showing* thee my experiments, and of going with thee to see my cousin and neighbor Roger Brooke, to whom I read thy letter last evening, and who expressed an earnest wish that thou might find time to carry out thy intention as therein expressed.

Thy sincere friend, BENJ. HALLOWELL.

To JOHN S. SKINNER.

Sulphuric Acid.—A correspondent of the New England Farmer, noticing the effects said to be produced by the use of Sulphuric Acid, (*oil of vitriol,*) with bone dust, as noticed in our last, from an English paper, reminds farmers disposed to test its virtues in the way pointed out, that it is a dangerous article to handle.

DORCHESTER (Md.) FARMERS' CLUB.

Club met at Dr. J. E. Muse's, President, on Saturday the 28th.

The President, Dr. Muse, submitted to the Board, a communication, highly interesting to the Farming community, and on motion, it was unanimously Resolved that the author be requested to furnish a copy for publication, in the Cambridge Chronicle, Easton Gazette and Star, American Farmer, Albany Cultivator, and The American Quarterly Journal, at Albany, in order that a wide circulation may be given to the scientific and practical views presented.

For the "Dorchester Farmers' Club."

Having stated at a former club meeting in April last, that I had on hand, an experimental investigation of the efficacy of the several new philosophic nostrums, recently offered to the agricultural community, it may be expected that I should offer, at least a partial report of their progressive indications, so far as the advance of the season may allow.

I regret to say, they have, in no respect, exceeded the moderate views I had entertained of them, and freely expressed on the occasion alluded to;—yet I would feel wholly unauthorised, to pass a conclusive judgment upon them, until final results, obtained by myself, and others, may have fully developed the degree of character to which they may be entitled.

The Guano, and the Hauterive solution, are alledged to be *protective* against *Insects;* as well as *nutritive*, —and to promote the growth of vegetables, in an extraordinary degree.

To these two points, I will concisely call your attention, as far as observation has enabled me.

I have this season used the Guano steep with a portion of my seed corn; and agreeably to the rules prescribed by the venders of the article; that is, about 80 hours, in the solution; which was prepared, as directed, by the same authorities. In the Hauterive solution, the grain was steeped as directed from 18 to 24 hours.

The field, in which the experiments were made contains about fifty acres—and was placed under a winter furrow, as usual, in my cultivation;—and manured, broad cast, in the spring—excepting only, about two acres left for a fuller experiment.

Several acres, embracing the manured, and unmanured, were planted with each of the steeped grain, as well as the unsteeped; and the whole accurately marked;—and without these marks, they cannot well be distinguished—no superiority indicating the steeped portions, is discernible.

No part of the field is injured by the well known cut worm (the phalena devastator) which has committed great ravages in the County generally;—but I owe this exemption to the winter furrow, which exposed the pupa to frost; indeed the whole being free, from this pest, the steeps cannot claim credit, for it.

But unfortunately for these steeps, as *protective* against *insects*, several spaces of some square perches of my corn have been infested by numerous aphides on the roots, which I was led to detect by the yellow color, and stunted growth of the plant;—the microscope disclosed the agents of the mischief, which, at their first period, were not visible to the naked eye—tho' subsequently, plainly so;—these injured spaces, were partly within the range of each of the steeps;—unequivocally, contradicting the idea of their *protective* character; upon some portions of the injured spaces, I applied the guano in powder, mixed with three parts earth, without any advantage, yet, experienced from it;—but, possibly, there may be in more time; with the same view, to this insect, I have lately applied a strong solution of the guano around the roots, which will probably, have an earlier, and better effect; indeed, I have no doubt, this is the most economical, and effective mode of its application for *nutriment* also; the whole dose will then come within the immediate command, of the organs, designd by nature to introduce it into the circulatory system, for the final purposes of the plant; and without waste.

I will here remark, that with one of the infested portions of corn, I made trial of a strong infusion of tobacco stems, pouring around each plant, half a pint of it; in a few days—to my surprise, for I supposed the case desperate—the plants thus treated, began to assume a green color—and are now improving.

It is to be lamented, that a branch of science, Entomology, so intimately connected with the Farmer's interests, should be so much neglected; were the habits of the numerous Insects, injurious to vegetation, intimately understood, the Farmer would have his antidote for the various tribes—perhaps infallibly at hand, on all occasions; a periodical, entitled the "American Journal of Agriculture and Science," lately established at Albany N. Y. conducted by Drs. Emmons and Prime—gentlemen of eminence in Science, has commenced in its second number a series of articles, upon Insects injurious to vegetables, with descriptions, and colored figures of the Insects; price 3 dollars per year; this Journal should have a place in every Farmers library; without attention to this important, but neglected branch of Science, the interests of the Farmer will be eternally obnoxious to the fatal ravages of the numerous Insects that are annually multiplying in kind, and number; and frustrating his well planned and laborious designs.

An instance of a new variety of these formidable pests, has lately occurred in our neighbourhood—which threatens our wheat crop, to an unknown extent; a member of our Club—Dr. Tubman—enclosed to me a few days ago, an insect from the head of his growing wheat, and feeding upon the grain;—it is, as you will perceive a minute species of the "Calandra" Family—it is not the 'calandra Granaria,' which we have had frequently, in our grain, when housed, which is a long—slender Beetle;—but this,—the new one, is a short—thick Beetle,—color, silver gray—and four black dots on the elytra;—that is, two on each;—the most of this group are formidable enemies to the various kinds of grain.

I have placed on the table a small species of Gryllus (grass-hopper) which has, this season, for the first time, appeared in my tobacco beds, and done much injury;—they were considerably abated by a powder composed of soot, and sulphur, sprinkled over the beds before the dew had disappeared.

Now returning from this digression, to the manures, I will add, that the Poudrette, which, on a former occasion, I informed you, I had prepared with the sulphate of iron, I have recently applied to my tobacco crop, two spoons full to the plant—it is quite *inodorous;* and I think, *rich*—its effects will be reported, when obtained.

I have in progress two experiments with Electricity—*Atmospheric*—and *terrestrial;* with the former, as you have just now seen, in my garden I have been the most successful;—the rows of radishes, and corn were extended, through the electrized space, and on each side of it, were planted at the same time, and under equal advantages;—those within the Electric range—both corn, and radishes—are, as you have seen to day, more than double the growth, and luxuriance of them without it; the upland Rice, which

you saw—passing through the range, and out of it, was perishing from the drouth, when the Battery was applied, and no effect is seen, or to be expected.

From the remarkably changeable temperature of the season, varying frequently from sixteen, to thirty degrees, in twenty four hours, I was sanguine in the expectation of an unusual quantity of thermo electricity, developed in the Easterly Atmospheric current; —And I have not been disappointed; but how the *Galvanic plants* have failed, I am at a loss to conjecture.

This Battery was settled, precisely under the most recent method and authority;—the plates of copper and zinc each four feet long, and fourteen inches wide, were connected by a copper wire trebled and twisted, to ensure a full capacity for transmission;— and all buried.

Within the range, were planted forty grains of corn; —as yet none of the plants evince any effect, except those, nearly in contact with the *connecting wire;* and with the *plates of the Battery;* and those, as you have seen, are palpably injured, in growth, and appearance, compared with other portions, *possibly*, from an excess of the *electric aura*, collected and accumulated by the long continued *drouth;* or, waves of the free electric fluid;—the all pervading electric ocean;— collected by the Battery; and insulated, and condensed by the excessive aridity of the intermediate earth —by which, the antagonist forces were held in suspense;—thereby exerting an undue energy upon the insulating walls, and the immediately adjacent bodies within their sphere;—analogous to the case of antagonist electricities, *hovering in proximity*, in the *clouds*, and *earth*, without power to overcome the resistance of the dry atmosphere between them; and quiet the disturbed excitement.

I have another Battery, planted a few days ago, embracing some tobacco plants, and potatoes; and on a plan by which, I may probably, unite the forces of the *Thermo—and hydro Electric currents;* with which, I hope to be more successful; unless the *drouth be repeated*,—and the *caloric suspended;—improbable events* we would *hope*.

Finally—indeed I may, emphatically say—I offer for your inspection, some Ammonia, which I obtained from rain water, after the late long continued drouth,—when much of this article, so essential to vegetation is necessarily accumulated; you will perceive, that this ammonia retains the offensive odour derived from its putrid origin—the dead carcases, of the earth;—this fact stated by Liebig is so singular, that I confess my incredulity until, a few years ago, I satisfied myself of its truth, in regard to both snow and rain.

I have nothing to add—but to ask your pardon, for the long race I have taken, on *one of my hobbies;* when really, I had only intended a short Quarter.

JOSEPH E. MUSE.

Saturday, June 28th, 1845.

We have seen a sample of Wheat grown by *Thomas Duckett*, Esq., some of the heads of which yielded one hundred grains. Among them is a double head, the smaller branch shooting out at the middle of the larger one. This wheat was raised on a field from which two consecutive crops of Corn had been gathered.—*Marlboro' Gaz.*

Large Calf.—The Western New Yorker says that John Wilder, Esq., of Perry, Wyoming co., has a Calf, which at 3 weeks old weighed 208 pounds. He means to take the premium at the county Fair.—beat this who can.

SEA-WEED.—*Method of using and preserving it.*—As there are thousands and tens of thousands of this valuable manure periodically wafted upon the shores of our entire Atlantic sea-board as well as upon those bays and rivers which empty into it, the following article from the Dublin Farmer's Gazette will be acceptable to many of our readers. We shall close our reference to it with the single remark, that seaweed should never be used as a top-dressing without having plaster or pulverized charcoal sown over it to arrest and fix the volatile gases.

If seaweed be permitted to lie for any length of time on the shores where it may be cast, it soon begins to decompose; and this it does the more readily, the greater quantity there is of it. The vegetable part passes into carbonic acid, ammonia, and water; while the mineral part sinks into the sand, and returns to the ocean. Seaweed is very generally applied as a top-dressing to grass-lands, &c., with very marked advantage: yet, we cannot help supposing, from considerations already adduced, that this is not the most economical mode of applying it, because a considerable quantity of matter must be dissipated in consequence of its volatility, and lost (at least to that particular field) in the atmosphere. There is no loss of the inorganic constituents of the sea-weed, because these sink into the soil, and are absorbed by the roots of the grass; but there is loss occasioned by the passing away of organic matter, is palpable to any one passing a field manured with seaweed, from the effluvium is caused by the decomposition of the organic constituents of the seaweed: these constituents arrange themselves according to the laws of chemical affinity. The carbon of the sea-weed combines with the oxygen of the atmosphere, which is the primary cause of decomposition, or, as Liebig terms it, *erema causis*. The result of this union is carbonic acid gas; but while this chemical change is going on, others are also induced, and the whole constituents of the decomposing matter arrange themselves so far as to form new substances, so stable and enduring that they are not affected by what is generally acknowledged as the main agent in causing decomposition. But while this change is going on, the other constituents are not idle: the oxygen partly unites with the hydrogen, forming water, and partly with carbon, forming more carbonic acid; simulantaneous with which arises the combination of hydrogen with nitrogen, forming the well known substance, ammonia (hartshorne.) We see, then, that the whole products of seaweed are cabonic acid, ammonia, and water.

The substance which the farmer is most apt to lose in the preparation of his farm-yard manure, or seaweed, is carbonate of ammonia, and to prevent its escape he ought to adopt every precaution; as, according to Liebig, every pound of ammonia contains as much nitrogen as 60 lbs. of wheat.

There are two modes which we may employ to prevent the waste of ammonia, consequent upon the necessary process of decomposition; we may either convert it into a non-volatile substance by combining it with any mineral acid, or we may retain it by mechanical means: to effect the former, sulphuric acid (oil of vitrol,) sulphate of lime (gypsum,) and chloride of sodium (salt,) have been employed with various degrees of success; and to accomplish the latter, burnt clay, charred saw dust, coal ashes, black earth, the turf-mould, have been used: in the one case, a sulphate of chloride of ammonia is formed; in the

other, it is absorbed by the pores of the various substances.

We have tried various plans to prevent the escape of gaseous substances from heaps of decomposing matter, and we think the most effectual plan is, to mix the manure or sea-weed, or whatever it may be, with a considerable quantity of black mould, or ashes, and, when the heap is properly formed, to cover it carefully up with a layer of earth.

By adopting a plan of this kind a saving will be effected equal in value to many hundreds weight of guano.

Seaweed, when treated in this way, and compounded with earth and a quantity of farm-yard dung, makes a very rich manure, after it has undergone decomposition, for all crops: it is especially adapted to grass, from the quantity of sulphate and carbonate of soda it contains; and when applied to potatoes it has not the tendency to make them grow so coarse and waxy as when laid in the drills in a fresh state. While it has been recommended to mix sea-weed in a compound, in preference to laying it on as a top-dressing, it may be laid in a fresh state upon land that is about to be ploughed, as the soil then retains the ammonia devolved by its decomposition.

The sea-weed, which every storm uproots from its ocean bed, and which is wafted to our shores by ev-wind, is, in fact, so much treasure gained from the deep, so much corn added to our fields. Such is the simple, yet ineffectual means by which nature returns to the soil what is so essential to the nutrition of plants. The great and incessant waste which our fields are constantly exposed to, from the filtration of water carrying away the soluble matter into the drains, and ultimately into the ocean, is, in some measure, restored to us by these sub-marine forests, which search out and recover what would otherwise have been lost to us forever; and thus it is, by a succession of changes, that the equilibrium of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms is maintained. Guano may even be said to be one of the treasures of the deep, inasmuch as the animals that deposite it draw their food from that source.

The Farmers' Club held its regular semi-monthly meeting yesterday. The hour devoted to miscellaneous matters was fully occupied. An interesting paper on Guano and its application to plants was read and commented on. It appears that the best method of using guano for horticultural purposes is to dissolve one pint of it in four gallons of water and use freely about the roots. Some statements were then made regarding the effect of galvanism on grape vines, which had been found to flourish wonderfully under its influence.—A letter was read from Lieut. Marshall, U. S. N. of U. S. Ship Portsmouth, dated at Rio Janeiro, detailing the results of his discoveries and investigations in regard to a new and valuable plant, the New Zealand Flax.—He hopes to be able to send to the Institute a specimen of this plant.—The subject of Preservation of Fruit Trees then came up, and was treated *de novo* in all its branches. The Chairman, Col. Clark, having stated Coal Tar had been found very efficacious employed about the roots of Peach trees, suggested that this remedy be adopted and recommended by the Club. Dr. Underhill was afraid of doing so, as he knew that the coal tar, or residuum of bituminous coal, was a very powerful agent, and in his opinion must prove very injurious if not positively destructive to the trees. In England it had been the practice many years to saturate the fence posts in this bitumen, while hot, so as to render them impervious to moisture—and in the operation many persons contracted violent inflammations in their faces by the mere exhalations which escaped from it. Col. Clark withdrew his suggestion, and thought it better that farther experiments should be made before the Club endorsed the coal tar. He, however, alluded to the residuum produced by the Gas Works in Centre-street, where anthracite coal was used, and the carburetted hydrogen disengaged by the agency of fluid rosin. The Gas works in Eighteenth-street were carried on with bituminous coal.—Of the tar thus produced he knew nothing. Later in the discussion a gentleman mentioned that he had kept a large Peach-orchard of over 200 trees perfectly free from the grub for seven or eight years, by the use of hard soap freely used upon the body and limbs of each tree.

The regular topic of discussion was then announced—the Cultivation of Corn—and Dr. Field was called on. He stated that he had made close observations during the four or five years of his farming experience, and had become satisfied that the old system of cultivating Corn was decidedly erroneous—although he would not deny that farmers were in the habit of producing very good crops in old times. During his first year he had followed the old system, and he did not obtain so much Corn from ten acres as he now got from two. The old way was to begin by plowing—then to hoe—then plow and hoe again, and this sometimes done three times instead of twice. This, he was fully convinced, was a most injurious practice. In the first place, plowing disturbed the manure buried with the turf which had been turned over, and permitted the volatile and nourishing gasses, the essence as it were of the manure, to escape; and the process of hilling brought the roots too much exposed to the sun, and permitted too much moisture to gather round their extremities. In the next, plowing cut off a great many of the little roots, which were all important in the process of nutrition. His plan was to first prepare the ground *well*, manure it plentifully, plant the Corn in hills about three feet apart and six or eight seeds in each, not forgetting to manure the seed in each hill very powerfully. When it had fairly come up he put in his cultivator—an excellent affair of his own invention—then hoed again—pulled out all but three or four stalks in each hill, and again applied the cultivator—sometimes a third time. He always cut his Corn close to the ground.

Dr. Underhill agreed that the cultivator was much better than the plow: too much plowing and hilling was very injurious. There was no danger of manuring Corn too much. He stated that common bog-swamp could be turned into excellent Corn land by first draining, cutting down the bogs, and then applying a light coat of four or five inches of sand—silex being a necessary constituent in the production of Corn—especially in the stalk, enabling it to stand. From swamp land thus prepared, he had gathered 85 bushels of Corn to the acre. As to cutting up corn at the roots, that had long been decided. Judge Buel had discovered, several years ago, that 7 or 8 per cent. was gained in the grain by this; while the stalks were worth three times the money—six or seven tons of excellent fodder being produced from every acre.—*N. Y. Tribune, June* 16.

The Curculio.—The remedy which will prove effectual, if the gardener does his duty, is to *anticipate him,* and never let him exist, which is done if all the *punctured* plums that fall to the ground are burned, or given to the hogs—*Cor. Gen. Far.*

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BALTIMORE, AUGUST, 1845.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

We should be insensible to the feeling of gratitude were we not to return our thanks to those of the old patrons of our *old* journal who have taken a lively interest in adding to its subscription list in its *new form*, and whilst we thus avail ourself of the occasion to discharge the debt we owe them, we appeal to those of them who have not yet acted, but have, doubtless, been promising themselves to do so daily, to bestir themselves without farther delay, as procrastination in the performance of a good deed, as in farming, invariably tends to evil. *The present reduced price of subscription*—A DOLLAR A YEAR—is so low that every farmer and planter, whether he be rich or poor, can take it without feeling the amount paid for it at the end of the year. And surely we hazard nothing in saying that it will be worth to either fifty times the amount of subscription. Therefore, we appeal to each of our old subscribers who have not sent us ten subscribers to the new publication, to go among his neighbors and friends and cease not until he shall have filled up his quota.

THE ETRURIAN WHEAT—We would call the attention of farmers to the advertisement of Messrs. Boardly & Cox, on our last page, offering for sale a lot of the wheat of a variety termed "Etrurian," noticed in our last as having been raised by Revd. D. Zollickoffer, of Carroll co. Md. from seed imported by Com. Stewart, and raised on his farm in New Jersey. We have full confidence from what we have learnt of this wheat, in its value, and strenuously urge upon our farmers to obtain some of this seed, if ever so small a portion, in order to give it a trial; and as the lot on sale is small, to prevent disappointment, no delay should be had in the application, as it will no doubt be speedily disposed of. The peculiarities of this wheat will be found noticed in our July No. and in the advertisement to which we have referred, from information obtained from Mr. Z. who has given us a similar statement when recently in our city. He thinks that on lands suited to the growing of white wheat, it will be found peculiarly valuable.

☞Since the above was prepared we have received the following from Mr. Zollickoffer:

Lauderdale, July 21st, 1845.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed you will find a few of the remarkable *beards* or awns of a variety of wheat of which I made mention when I was with you last. This with several others I received from H. M. Zollikoffer of Philadelphia, who received them in a distribution made by the councils of that city of various specimens collected for Gerard College. Nearly all of them failed from their late ripening. One variety of Spring wheat (labelled Italian) I still retain for further trial. It is a bald or beardless wheat—it is of a compact headed variety (*Triticum compactum*) and may yet prove valuable. The above long bearded wheat resembles somewhat in its *ear* and *awns* a variety of turgid wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) I received four years ago from England, but differs very materially in the form and appearance of the grain. This turgid wheat with two other varieties, subsequently obtained from Lincolnshire, England, with an expectation of getting a kind that would answer for cold clays, were all given up because of their late ripening. I go in for early wheat; hence my preference for Mediterranean and Etrurian. The Etrurian especially I regard as an important acquisition to the wheat grower. It has also the advantages of the early varieties—escaping rust and smut, and is, to say *the least of it*, as productive as *any* variety I ever grew, and more so than any of the white I ever tried. It has moreover maintained its *colour* better than any other white variety I ever tried; as white with me have turned red in one season. But to go back again to our long bearded variety; I had given it up with others—three heads were found among the Etrurian by my youngest son, and perfectly ripe at the time of cutting that grain. How it got there is more than I can tell. I am disposed now to give it another fair trial. The awns I send you as a mere curiosity. When I get a little more time I want to notice that valuable paper of Mr. Naill's. There has been *too little attention* paid to the proper *time and manner* of putting in our wheat crop. I don't mean by "too little attention," too little pulverizing the earth—The fact is, in many instances we pulverize too much. In this we follow British husbandry in a case that does not suit our climate, and attribute our failures to any thing else other than the real cause.

My son has just measured one piece of ground on which was grown Etrurian wheat, the product of which we know, having thrashed it by itself, the result about twenty eight bushels per acre. In this piece there are some twenty large apple trees and a large cherry tree. Any person acquainted with the *condition* of the *ground*, would pronounce this a larger produce than could have been expected from any other kind of wheat. I am satisfied that it is 5 or 6 bushels per acre more than the Mediterranean grown along side of it under equal circumstances.

Respectfully yours, DANIEL ZOLLICKOFFER.

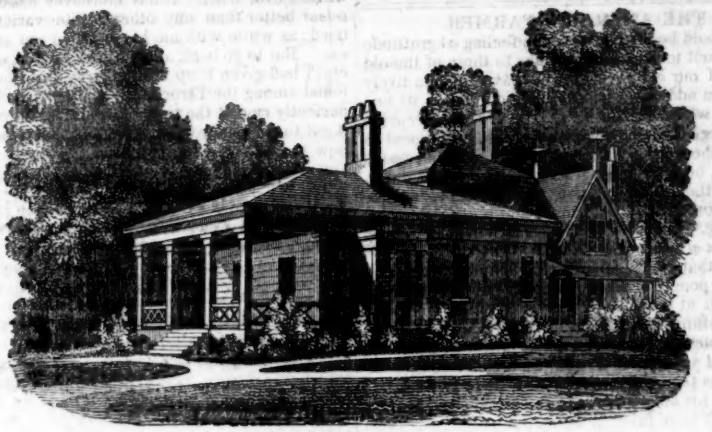
MEDITERRANEAN WHEAT—The Hon. Wm. Carmichael, of Queen Ann's co. Md. advertises in the "American" that he will have a cargo of this wheat for seed, for sale in this city by Messrs. Emery, Stevens & Shaffer—that he has grown it for the last four years with success, and it has never been injured by the Hessian Fly—in the general loss sustained from the rust in 1842, his Mediterranean wheat sustained no injury; it is free from smut and all sorts of filth, with the exception of a small portion of onion. Those wanting seed of this variety cannot probably do better than by obtaining some of this lot, as the character of Mr. C. as one of the most eminent farmers of the Eastern peninsula, is a sure guaranty that whatever he has is of the best. The general impression has been, that flour made from Mediterranean wheat is darker than that from other varieties, and does not command as good a price—but Mr. Zollickoffer informs us that such is not the case in his section of the State—that the millers pay 5 cents more in the bushel for it. He was the first to introduce it into Carroll county, and has had the best success with it for several years. We notice in the Kent News that G. Vickers, esq. of that county, raised off of 1 3-4 acres, 52 1-2 bushels of the German (or Mediterranean) wheat, from seed obtained of Dr. Muse, of Dorchester.

A PROLIFIC WHEAT—A letter to the editor of the "A. Farmer" from R. E. C. Downes, Esq. Church Hill, Dorchester co. Md. says—"I have just seen a bunch of perfect wheat (of the yellow bearded variety) consisting of 76 stalks from one grain. The stalks are nearly all of the same height, good heads, and perfectly ripe. It was raised within a few miles of this place, and has been left here for exhibition, and to be forwarded to your city. I have never before heard of any thing like it, and it is quite a curiosity of the wheat crop, at least to me." [We should be obliged if it was sent to our care.]

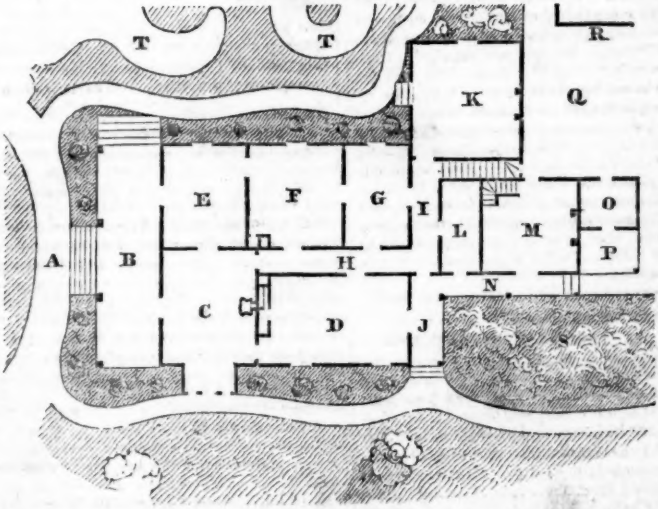
"WASHINGTON" WHEAT—This is a white bearded wheat, with very large well filled heads, offered for sale at Cortes' seed store, Market st. Philadelphia. It is part of the produce of a single head of 21 grains, which came from Italy with Greenough's statue of Washington, and sent from Washington city by Hon. O. H. Smith, of U. S. Senate, to his nephew, Wm. Parry, of Burlington co. N. J. who has given it its present name.

"FAIRY-KNOWE,"

THE COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF J. H. B. LATROBE, ESQ.



GROUND PLAN:



DESCRIPTION—A. Carriage Road. B. Piazza, 10 by 34 feet. C. Parlour, 22 by 15. E. Chamber, 13 by 15. F. Chamber, 14 by 15. G. Chamber, 10 by 15. H. Passage, 3ft.6. I. Passage, 4ft.4. J. Gateway, 6 ft. K. Chamber, 17 by 17. Pantry, 15 by 6.6. M. Kitchen, 15 by 15. N. Gallery, 4 ft. O. Store-room, 8 by 10. P. Shed, 7 by 10. Q. Kitchen-yard. R. Ice House. S. Shrubbery. T. Flower Garden.

We are gratified in being able to give in our present number, a VIEW OF THE SPLENDID COTTAGE RESIDENCE of our fellow-citizen, *John H. B. Latrobe*, esq. which for the last two years, has so universally commanded the admiration of travellers on the Balt. & Ohio, and Washington R. Road, who have beheld it, in bold relief, from its elevated position near the Relay House, as they neared that point, in going to the National Metropolis from Baltimore. Mr. L. has long been appreciated as a gentleman of exquisite classical taste; for the possession of a familiarity with, and knowledge of, the science of Architecture—and in the design for his residence, he called to his aid the talents of that eminent artist, *Robert Carey Long*, Esq. who has raised a monument to his fame in many of the splendid public as well as pri-

vate edifices which adorn our city. The execution of the work was entrusted to Mr. *A. L. M'Neal*, a Master Builder of our city, much to his credit as a workman, and to the satisfaction of his employer—and having known him for many years as a worthy man and an excellent citizen, we are pleased to learn that the workmanlike manner in which he performed the duty assigned him, has secured the patronage of other gentlemen engaged in the erection of similar buildings. The plan of the cottage, it will be seen, combines compactness and convenience of arrangement, with a handsome and picturesque exterior. It may furnish hints to those having in view the erection of a summer residence, and it is an instance of the fact that taste rather than money is requisite in the production of beauty in the simplest specimens of architecture. The building contains, besides a large piazza, a parlor, dining room, five chambers, an ample pantry, four large closets, a kitchen with two comfortable servants rooms over head, and a large store room adjoining it. Such a building can be built for $2500 without *extras*, with two coats of plaister, and two coats of paint on the inside, and three on the planed work of the outside. The weather-boarding is rough, colored with a wash of lime mixed with linseed oil and salt, to the consistence of paste, and then reduced, with water, to a proper degree of fluidity to be conveniently applied. Whilst the cottage itself is accordant in proportions, chaste and classic in design, an examination of the "*Ground Plan*" below, will convince the lover of *country homes*, that *comfort* has been consulted with as much success as has the proprieties of the architectural art, and that taken as a whole, there are but few gentlemen's residences in our country combining so much of the utile, with that which is beautiful.

The fine engravings which accompany this notice, were executed by Mr. *Tho. H. Mumford*, of Philadelphia, and are in the highest degree creditable to his skill as an artist.

EFFECT OF A STRAW TOP DRESSING.

We gave in our last a number of experiments which had been tried in England with straw as a *top dressing*. These experiments so far as they went were highly satisfactory, and gave assurance that whatever might be the peculiar *modus operandi* by which straw thus applied acted, its effect was highly salutary in urging forward vegetation and increasing the products of the crops upon which it had been tried. Since then we have made an experiment ourself, which proved so efficacious, and illustrated the benefit derived so conclusively, that we feel justified in stating it, in order that it may encourage others to test the utility of the practice.

In the beginning of May last, having a few seed of a variety of the *Cantaleupe* called the *Alicant Sweet Melon*, we prepared a couple of hills with great care as to manuring, digging and the pulverization of the soil, and planted the seed; they came up promptly and looked healthy, but from the very onset of their coming up the vines failed to grow, and up to the 28th of June the largest had not covered a space in circumference bigger than a breakfast plate. Anxious to promote their growth, we had repeatedly resorted to watering with dung tea, followed by dustings of ashes and plaster, but all to no purpose. On the day we have named we covered the hills about half an inch deep with cut straw, and had the satisfaction to see the vines grow off almost immediately with vigor, put out numerous runners and blossomed profusely in a very few days. The largest hill of vines will now, this 19th July, cover a space in circumference of many feet, and is fruiting as finely as we could desire. That the application of the straw changed the habits of the vines we have not the slightest doubt, though we are not prepared to state the why and the wherefore—the effect, however, is too striking for us to resist the only rational conclusion to which our mind could arrive, viz.—*that the straw did make the vines grow*. The location of the hills is close by a brick wall, with a southern exposure, and it may have been, that the reflection from the wall, as acted upon by the rays of the sun, so abstracted the moisture from the earth as to render it too arid to be promotive of vegetable growth; but this unfriendly effect we obviated to a certain extent, by watering the vines just at sundown, during the prevalence of the drought, at least thrice a week. This attention kept them in a green and healthy condition, so far as appearances went, but notwithstanding all we did up to the application of the straw, we could not make them grow. The *straw*, by preventing evaporation, preserved the moisture of the earth about the vines; and it may be, that, to that mechanical agency we are indebted for the good *results* we have detailed. But be that as it may, we should be over skeptical were we not to ascribe them to the salutary influence of the straw, and we should be equally skeptical, were we not to yield to the conviction that top dressings of straw, hay, leaves and similar substances, may be rendered eminently useful in the culture of the earth.

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSORSHIP.

In our last we apprised our readers that the Board of visiters of Frederick County, Maryland, had engrafted a *Department of Agricultural Chemistry* upon their academy, and appointed Professor *Baer* to fill the chair. By a copy of a letter, which will be found in another column, it will be seen that, with the view of retaining the services of Professor Baer to the state, a committee of the Board of Visiters have invoked the aid of the Visiters of the Academies of six of the Counties near to Frederick. We commend this letter to the favorable consideration of those to whom it is addressed, and must express the hope that the talents of Mr. B. may not be lost to Maryland. And while we thus express our views in relation to this subject, as regards its local bearing within our

own commonwealth, we may be permitted to hope, that the Trustees and Visiters of Academies and Schools in other states, will see that similar measures be taken to make *Chemistry, in its relations to Agriculture*, a branch of public instruction. Agriculture, as the great and paramount interest of the nation, should not be suffered to be longer neglected, as the time has arrived when the policy should be, to grow the greatest amount of products upon the fewest number of acres, and not, as heretofore, to spread culture over the greatest quantity of land. The former result can only be attained by acquiring a familiar knowledge of the constituent elements of soils, of vegetable products, and the application of the proper kinds of manures to remedy defects of soils;—and it must be evident that this knowledge can only be gained through an acquaintance with the science of chemistry.

So far as regards the position of professor *Baer* with the Frederick Academy, it will appear by the circular to which we have before alluded, that a highly advantageous offer has been made to him from a sister state, to assume a *chair* there; this appeal, therefore, to the Counties contiguous to Frederick, is now made with the view of being able to offer him such inducements as may make it an object with him to remain among us,—and most sincerely do we wish it may succeed.

To the Trustees of the County Academy at Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland:

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned have been appointed a Committee by the Board of Visiters of the Academy in Frederick, to communicate with you and the Trustees of the Academies in the nearest counties, in order to procure your and their co-operation in making Agricultural Chemistry a branch of academical education. The subject of Agricultural Chemistry, on account of its practical utility, has become of such engrossing interest throughout a great part of the civilized world, that its demands upon all who are interested with the educational institutions of our State, can no longer be disregarded without detriment to these important trusts. Sensible of this, the Visiters of the Frederick Academy have for two years, been exerting themselves, in making the subject a part of education in the institution entrusted to their care. William Baer, Esq. has delivered several courses of lectures before the pupils of the Institution. From his long experience as a practical chemist, Mr. Baer has devised a mode of instruction so simple that the youngest pupil can be made readily to comprehend the subject in its scientific as well as its practical bearings; and thus to acquire knowledge of a subject which has heretofore been reserved for the study of mature years.

In the ardour which the subject of Agricultural Chemistry is exciting every where, Mr. Baer has been offered the chair of Principal professor in an institution in a neighbouring state, with inviting advantages—The Board of Visiters of the Frederick Academy are very unwilling, that Maryland should lose the services of one of her citizens in a branch of education so important as to be matter of national concern, when his qualifications as a teacher are such as to induce a foreign company to select him as professor in an institution on the most extensive plan.

With a view then, to subserve the cause of education in our State, the Visiters of the Frederick Academy propose that the Trustees of the Academies in several of the nearest counties appropriate annually out of the funds given to them by the State, the sum of one hundred dollars or more, towards employing Mr. Baer, to deliver two courses of lectures on Agricultural Chemistry in each Academy making such appropriation. It is thought that no better disposition can be made of a part of the fund given by the State, to education, than by promoting knowledge relative to the great interest on which rests our whole commercial prosperity.

The undersigned beg leave to refer you to their address to the people of Frederick County, in the accompanying paper. Respectfully,

WM. B. TYLER,
WM. J. ROSS,
SAM'L TYLER.

EXPERIMENTS WITH GUANO—The hon. J. A. Pearce, of Kent co. Md. in a letter to the Editor of the "A. Farmer," says—"I tried Guano this spring upon my Wheat, Oats, Corn and Grass crops with so good effect, that I wish to make some extensive experiments this fall. If I can get it on the same terms I will dress 15 or 20 acres of wheat with it in Sept. next. On Wheat and Oats the result was very striking. All my Orchard Grass and Timothy lots having been dressed with it, I cannot speak so certainly of its adaptation to these grasses; though they have yielded a better cutting with me, than my neighbors have on better land. The Corn was only lately manured with it, and there has not been sufficient time to develop its effects on that. Could I be assured of its improving the land for more than one or two seasons, I should think it invaluable. Can't you inform us thro' your paper whether other importations into Baltimore will be made?—[We have made inquiry, and can only answer, that there is a probability of a supply being received, but there is no certainty—*Ed.*] I remarked that the young Clover which was generally much injured by the long droughts of the spring, is quite fine on the guanoed land. When my crops have all been gathered and thrashed, I will report my experience in detail, and you can publish it if you think fit."—[We shall be happy to receive and publish the promised Report in the pages of the "Farmer."—*Ed.*]

COMPLIMENTARY—A subscriber in Virginia, in forwarding a list of new subscribers, pays the following compliment to our journal:—"I have been a subscriber to two other agricultural papers, and am at this time a subscriber to one other, and I can truly say that I consider the *American Farmer* decidedly the best agricultural paper for the plain practical farmer I have ever seen."

[Our friend is too partial—tho' at the risk of being charged with vanity, we will remark, that we have not often seen such a body of valuable *practical* matter in the same space, as is contained in our present No. of the "Farmer."]

SUBSTITUTE FOR GRASS—At a meeting of the New York Farmer's Club, held 14th July, the subject of a substitute for a short crop of Grass was discussed at considerable length—Turnips were supposed to be the best food for cattle, in default of grass.

THE POTATO BLIGHT—We regret to learn from the Massachusetts Spy, that the blight which caused such destruction to the Potato crop in former years, has thus early commenced its ravages the present season. A field belonging to Gov. Lincoln, exhibited a perfectly healthy appearance on the 3d July; on the 5th, portions of the vines showed indications of disease, and on the 7th, about one half of them were more or less shrivelled, and many shrunk to half their former dimensions, and some of the leaves already turned brown and nearly dry; the seed had been selected, and were of the red variety. The disease appeared to commence at the upper part of the vine.

"THE FARMER'S LIBRARY," by our old friend *Skinner*, has made its appearance, we learn—We have not yet received it.

LEANDER—SON OF DAIRY-MAID.

THE PROPERTY OF JAMES GOWEN, ESQ., MOUNT AIRY, PHILADELPHIA.

LEANDER—beautiful red & white—calved 1839; got in England, by Whitaker's Prince of Northumberland; dam, imported DAIRY MAID; Dairy Maid, by Harlsey, 2091; (Harlsey's dam by Pilot, 496;) dam by Rob Roy, 557; Rob Roy by Remus, a son of Comet, 155;—(1000 guineas)—gr. dam Cleasley Lady, by a son of Favourite, 252; gr. g. dam, Lucinda, by Mr. Hutton's Bull of Marske; gr. gr. g. dam, Lucy, by Barningham, 56, &c., &c ,&c.

Prince of Northumberland, by Sandhoe, Sandhoe by Streamer; dam by Compton's Son of George; g. dam by Wellington, 683—gr. g. dam, Miss Hill, by Major, 397, &c. &c. &c. Prince of Northumberland's dam and Leander's gr. dam. BELLFLOWER, bred by General Simpson,—one of the best cows of her day in all England, now 19 years old (see Herd Book, vol. 2nd, p. 505.) Bellflower by General Simpson's Sultan, 1485, a son of Jupiter, 1147, and Jupiter by North Star, own brother to Comet, (1000 guineas,) and dam, Mary, (300 guineas,) sister to Windsor, 698; g. dam, Rolla, also bred by General Simpson, and by North Star, 458. For Sandhoe and Streamer's pedigree, see supplement to Herd Book, volume 3d.

☞We publish, agreeably to promise, the following very excellent Report of JAMES GOWEN, Esq. to the Philadelphia Agricultural Association, and commend it particularly to the attention of gentlemen of this and the neighboring States, as evincive of the fact, that by a system of skilful and judicious management, Farming operations can be conducted with profit. The example and success of Mr. G. has stimulated many a generous son of the soil to perseverance, and has established for him a fame more to be prized than laurels gained on the field of blood, as his trophies carry peace and plenty with them, and are unattended with the wailings of the widow and the orphan. We copy from the Philadelphia "Cabinet":

JAMES GOWEN'S REPORT TO THE PHILADELPHIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FARMS:

Gentlemen,—It is known to most of you, that since I became a farmer, I have spared no pains to fulfil the duties of the calling, in a manner creditable to the community in which I live, as well as to myself and the Agricultural Society to which I belong—that while improving my own practice, I have endeavoured, by sundry means, to stimulate others to compete with me in spirited efforts, to arrive at excellence in the highly useful and delightful pursuits of agriculture; and to promulgate as far as in me lay, such improvements and results, as were likely to promote the general interests of the farmer. In carrying out this object, I have as part of the system, always been found competing in crops and cattle, for the premiums offered by "The Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture." It is therefore in accordance with this practice, that I now present my farm, as worthy of note, when you come to award the premiums committed to your distribution; in view of which, and in fulfilment of the rules and regulations of the Society, I submit for your consideration a general statement of its character and condition.

The homestead Farm contained, when I removed to it in 1834, about 60 acres; since then I have added to it by purchase, some 40 acres, all of which is contiguous; making over 100 acres, exclusive of the Woodland Farm in Cheltenham township, Montgomery county, part of which is cleared and worked by me, and is in fine condition, as you may recollect from my communication on the crop of rye, raised there in 1842.

From long neglect and a bad practice, previous to

my coming on the Homestead, I found it in every respect in a wretched condition. The result of bad ploughing and bad seeding, were visible in the unevenness of the surface; and the pernicious weeds that seemed to have entire possession. I at once took up the old fences which divided about 40 acres into small fields, ploughed it up, eradicated the briars and brambles that filled so large a space along those fences, and removed the stones within ploughing depth. It was cropped according to circumstances—alternately with potatoes, corn, grain, &c., until the soil had been brought into proper subjection in the fall of 1839; when it was laid down for grass, by sowing it with grain and timothy; since which it has not been disturbed, with the exception of about eight acres in rye, this year; and yet this last summer it cut, I may safely say, two tons to the acre, and expect it to do as well next summer, should the season prove favourable. By this parctice I brought every inch of the land to bear, and saved ten years expence, or wear and tear of the six fences which formerly stood inside this section. The fields in future will be divided by hedges of the *Maclura thorn, or Osage Orange*, raised by myself; four of these hedges already in, with plenty of quicks on hand to supply the remainder. These remarks you will please observe, apply to the land lying on the south-east side of the lane that divides the farm. The land on the north-west side, opposite, called the Spring fields, was, if possible, in a still worse condition. Owing to the swampy nature of part of it, and the washings from the higher lands on the other side the lane, the posts were every spring thrown out of place as the frost left the ground, while the ravines furrowed out by thaws and heavy rains, set at defiance all attempts at cropping or farming. To obviate the yearly setting up of the fences, which was not only expensive, but vexatious, I substituted a stone and lime wall for the post-and-rail fence. The wall is about half a mile long, is two feet below the surface at every point, two feet broad at base, and averages over six feet high from bottom, ending with an eighteen inch coping. One large under-drain, with grating at mouth, takes the water from the lane, while several smaller drains keep the surface of the land perfectly dry. The ravines were well filled up, and ever since, for a series of years, good crops of potatoes, corn, grain and grass, have been taken, where formerly grew spatterdock and rushes.

The land added to the farm at sundry times within the last five or six years, was, in the general, in as bad a condition in many respects, as the worst of that already described; indeed, it could furnish material for a more repulsive picture than any that has been drawn yet; but as most of you have repeatedly seen it in its original state, I need not trouble you with a description. To show its condition now, I need only remind you, that two years ago I obtained a premium for raising upwards of four hundred bushels of Mercer potatoes to the acre, on this land; and that on the succeeding year, from the same potatoe land I took upwards of fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, without any additional manure. Also, that last year I submitted a field of some seven acres of corn, on another portion of this land, which yielded at the rate of 200 bushels of ears, equal to 100 bushels shelled corn to the acre. My reports on the condition of these fields, and the aforesaid crops, are in possession of the Society. The corn land was in this year with potatoes and oats. The potatoe, four acres, yielded over 200 bushels to the acre; the oats were very good—It is now laid down with wheat and orchard grass. This sketch, with your own personal observations, will afford you some idea of what I had to contend with, and what I have accomplished in the way of improving land, and the present condition of my farm.

From the difficulty and expense in procuring manure from the city, and after three or four years experience in that mode of supply, I gave it up, and adopted the plan of making a supply on the place, by an increased stock of cattle; from which I have derived my sole supply ever since, with the exception of light dressings of lime and gypsum, and a small lot of stable manure which I was tempted to purchase a few weeks since at auction, and which I can dispense with, should I meet with a purchaser before its removal in the spring. The keeping and breeding fine stock had in itself strong claims upon my judgment, as well as my taste; as I could never think a farm was what it should be, unless it could exhibit fine cattle, as well as an improved culture. To maintain this stock, and bring my land to a high state of cultivation, by the most efficient and economical practice, has been a leading object; and to accomplish this, required no ordinary management on such a farm. The stock in cattle has ranged for years, from forty to fifty head, in addition to the necessary horses, with a large stock of swine for breeding and fattening; and these I have fed from the produce of the farm, except the purchasing occasionally of some straw, and supplies of mill-feed for the horses and swine, and some meadow hay for the cattle, selling frequently its equivalent in timothy. During the same period I have sold hundreds of bushels of rye, some wheat, and on an average, four hundred bushels potatoes annually, with some three to four hundred bushels of carrots, besides providing for the family. But the chief income was derived from the cattle, of which I shall speak more at large presently.

My expenditures during the whole period, could not be otherwise than large; as I could not put up so much stone fence, and picket fence, as enclose my farm, without incurring a heavy outlay; but I view these improvements as cheap in the end. It may be safely inferred, that there is not at this day, any farm of the same extent in this part of the country, that can so easily be worked, or will require so little expense for a series of years in keeping the fences in order, especially when the hedges are taken into account. I am also of opinion, that taking in view the condition of the soil, as to depth and richness, as well as its being entirely free of stones and other impediments, that I can make it produce as much as any farm of its size in any part of the country, for a series of years, and at as small an expense.

The secret of keeping so large a stock on so little land, consists in my practice of partial soiling, and green crops, whereby I make some four to five acres do the work of thirty acres, in the "slow and easy go way." From May to August, my cattle are confined to one or two fields, most commonly one, to which they are driven, more for exercise in the cooler parts of the day, than for pasture; they being fed in the stables, early in the morning, at noon, and at night, with food cut for them from a lot adjoining the barnyard. This food is generally of lucerne, orchard grass and clover, oats and corn. The patches from which the corn and oats are cut, are always sowed with turnips in August. No one can credit, unless he has had proper experience in the matter, the quantity of food that one acre of lucerne, one of rich orchard grass and clover, and one of oats and corn, afford from May till August, nor can he estimate the

great saving in manure, much less the comparatively good health of the cattle, from not being exposed on naked fields, under a fervid sun, toiling all day in search of food. This practice allows me to crop almost the whole of the land, and to make some 120 to 150 tons of hay annually. In the fall, from August till November, the cattle have the whole range of the mowed lands, as I do not cut second crop grass for hay. Then for winter feed, I have always an acre of sugar beet, half an acre of sugar parsnips; half an acre or more of carrots, for my horses; and generally three to four acres of turnips. I report to the Committee on Crops this season, over 100 tons of these roots. In 1843, I gathered from one acre, 1078 bushels sugar beets, 60 lb. to the bushel; carrots at the rate of 687 bushels; sugar parsnips 868 bushels. This year 672 bushels sugar beets; 970 bushels carrots; 700 bushels sugar parsnip; and from three and a half acres, 2500 bushels of turnips, sowed with timothy seed.

The farm buildings consist of three substantial stone barns, one 70 feet by 33, another 50 by 26, and another hipt roof with cupola, 57 by 25, besides a large overshoot stable and hay house, stable-high of stone, 60 feet by 30—the lower floors of all these are made of broken stone and lime, planked, being vermin proof. There are also a corn crib capable of holding 1200 bushels corn; one barrack, ample hog pens, and sheds for carts and wagons. The barn buildings have been filled this fall to their utmost limit, except the corn crib.

A substantial stone wall encloses the principal manure heap; the drainings from this heap are led into a place of deposit, in which are received also a drain that runs under ground from the kitchen, as well as drainings from the pig pens, and the washings from all the yards. These drainings form an important item in the supply of manure to my land; it is a saving which I cannot estimate at less than $200 a year. This liquid by a simple process is applied to the patches of roots, &c., and to this may be ascribed my great success in raising such crops.

The dwellings, green house, shrubbery, and gardens, I need not describe; but it is in point to notice the nursery of young ornamental trees, and Maclura for hedges, raised on places mostly waste on other farms, from which I have an ample supply for my own setting out, and a considerable stock to spare of Magnolia Tripetalla, or Cucumber tree, and Silver Maple, of fine size, suitable for transplanting. I sold over fifty dollars worth last spring of these trees, and have several hundred dollars worth still on hand.

Of *Improved Cattle*, my first effort was with the celebrated "Dairy Maid," still owned by me. Her first calf, LEANDER, by *Whitaker's* PRINCE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, was reared, and kept by me, for breeding. DAIRY MAID'S calves alone, exclusive of Leander, have already sold for more than $500. It would be curious to trace her profit at this day, by stating an account of her first cost, her keep, and that of her son Leander; crediting her by sales of her own calves and grand calves; deducting for the portion of capital which was invested in the dams that produced the grand calves. To do this would extend this paper to an unusual length—suffice it to say, that Dairy Maid has long since paid for herself, and that those who laughed at me for giving $540 for one cow, may turn this statement over in their minds, and think, whether since 1838 any investment of theirs, to same amount, in any other branch of husbandry, has paid so well. But they may exclaim, "I cannot do the like again;" yes, I can—for if the price of fine cattle be reduced through their becoming plentier, (thanks to those who made them plentier,) the principal invested may not be so large, in the purchase of one animal to begin with, but there cannot be a doubt if she be superior or superlative, the produce of such an animal will realize as good a per centage in future, as did that of Dairy Maid. But there is a satisfaction beyond that of the pocket, and that is, that Dairy Maid's breed will be of infinite service to the country. Her calves and grand calves, are pretty well scattered already—and I make no doubt, but wherever found they will demonstrate the high character of the parent stock.

My sales for the last two years, exclusive of Dairy Maid's calves, amount to over $2000. The stock now on hand is about 40 head, principally Durhams, among which are Dairy Maid, Cleopatra, Walnut, Victoria, Ellen Kirby, Miss Model, Victorina, Judy, Bessy Bell, &c., &c. The butter sold for the last two years exceeds $750; this is a respectable item, when the calves that were reared, and the supply for my family are taken into view. From early fall to spring, the butter averaged 70 lbs. per week—the quality highly appreciated abroad, as well as at home. In butter, cream and milk, there is no stint at Mount Airy; so of fruits, vegetables, hams, &c. If I be a large producer, I may be also classed as a large consumer, and did I not produce, the markets would have to suffer accordingly.

In the hog line, I have been quite successful, at least in bringing the animal by judicious crossing, to great perfection. I fatted off my old Lincoln, and Berkshire Boars, and my Hampshire and Chester county Sows, last month; they weighed from 400 to 450 lbs., sold for $86,24. Have sold the last two years of pigs, designed for breeding, $150. Bacon, lard, &c. over $120, besides, having on hand 14 fine young barrows, last fall's pigs, now ready for slaughter, which will weigh from 250 to 300 lbs. each, value $150. The stock on hand consists of one fine boar of Lincoln, Hampshire and Berkshire breed; one brood sow of Berkshire breed, 12 shoats and seven pigs. The sow and pigs are the same that took the premium at the last Agricultural Exhibition.

Building and work, independent of the farm, induced to the keep of a heavy stock of working horses, consisting of five employed occasionally hauling stone, sand, &c. They are the same horses originally purchased, at and since the commencement of my farming operations; having neither *sold*, *lost*, nor *exchanged one*. The two carriage horses average 20 years old each; my favorite of these, is quite 25—so much for management in this department. The implements—wagons, carts, ploughs, harrows, &c., &c. are in keeping with the farm, and are well kept as you may have observed.

I keep no farmer on the place, in the character of manager, having never as yet been able to find a man qualified to conduct the operations of the yard and field, in manner as they should be. My practice is, to hire one man for general work, at $20 to $25 per month, also, two hands for out-door work alone, who are capable to work at any job of farming; they have employment from early spring till first of December, at 75 cents per day—these three find themselves. Then, there are two men engaged constantly, feeding and taking care of cattle, feed, manure, &c., who receive from $10 to $12 per month, and found. By this arrangement I have always a pretty strong force to act on emergencies, and to avail myself of seasonable operations. My work is generally well done and timely done.

I have thus given you a general insight into the condition of my farm, and the system by which it has been brought to its present state of perfection. If substantial fences, clean fields, well worked land, good crops, good barns, and splendid cattle, be essential to constitute a good farm, I trust you will find none of those features wanting on mine.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES GOWEN.

Mount Airy, Dec. 24th, 1844.

For the American Farmer.

TO THE YOUNG FARMERS OF MARYLAND,

ON PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE.

Six teeth out of my Threshing machine, and the consequent delay in my operations, enables me to devote a few moments to a subject, on which I have long contemplated addressing you, but until the present, prevented by various causes—that of *Practical Farming*—more especialy as applying to *young Maryland farmers*, like myself, on *old lands*.

The recent change in the form of *our* venerable and useful Agricultural Journal, keeping pace as it does, with the "lights" as they are discovered booming above the mists of by-gone ignorance, has suggested the *spirit* of these papers; or, if you will dignify them with the term, essays—and it is my special aim, so far as consistent with fact, to avoid all the technology of pedantry; the "schools," and the metaphysical theorist.

Succeeding to the management of an old estate, at a period when mercantile pursuits presented more *pecuniary* attractions than agricultural, my first experiment in the latter, was to let my farm on shares, by the advice of my friends, to a *working* man; the consequence was that at the end of two years, I was heartily glad to rid myself of a vampyre, who exhausted what little "blood" there was left in the old "turnip"—his last boast on quitting me, being, that "*he had skinned my place in two years*," and thought by *'rushing it'* (a favorite phrase of his) to be able to do the same, where he was going—Hence you can readily imagine the condition in which I found matters, on assuming sway in person.

My first efforts at restoration were, to repair and have made several hundred parcels of out-fencing; discarding entirely, and using the materials on it, all inner or cross lines, save a good sized, paled barnyard; a five rail feeding and milking yard, and a poultry yard—designing to pursue the *soiling and exercise* systems, and study the economy of manures, of which, more anon.

Of course the eyes of all our old neighbors were upon me, and their aged mouths spake wondrously wise as to what 'I would *not* do,' not 'what I *would*,' to make a living off *that old* place. "Your meadows have all *run out*," quoth one; "you'll have to spend many a dollar to repair your houses;" another quotha —and so on, until at last, had I not at least possessed the negative merit of *obstinacy*, I should have beaten any ploughshare into a sword, and taken the *road* to Texas for a livelihood!

"It's a pity," said a person who was burning blue lime, you don't lime that *bare-looking field*; why it won't raise *dog's hair*"—Now gentlemen, with your leave, it is of that very field I intend treating in this, my first agricultural paper. My *on-shares working* man, not leaving until late in November, no time could be found to flush a piece of sod for my corn; having to sow my wheat, some as late as 25th November; so, the only spot "*clean enough*" the next spring, was "that bare-looking field;" now, by the order of retrospect, you shall have the history of this field—a neighbor had it some six years ago on a lease; his last cropping was wheat, *to bind which he was compelled* to haul out *old straw; its own being too short to tie around a sheaf*. My brother then worked it in corn, manured in the hills; the crop was scarcely worth saving; his wheat succeeding that, no yield; next, my working man planted it in corn, partially manured in the hills, and then neglected—so that you will perceive the only place I had for this voracious crop, had been planted in it the previous year, without, of course, any yield—After having it ploughed harrowed and rolled in March, I had it cross-ploughed, harrowed twice and rolled in April; marked off in checks 3 ft. by 4½;—widest spaces running north and south, or nearly so;—hauled out two hundred one-horse cart loads of wood-pile stuff; and sand and mortar, from an old wall, composted, about equal parts, putting two shovels full in each hill.—Now the soil naturally, is what we term a white-oak, clay bottom, with a few traces of iron ore, in particles:—a stiff unmanageable soil if ploughed when *wet*, and impossible to be worked when *dry*.

The season, you will remember, was very dry, *notwithstanding this*, after the hoeing, I ordered the cultivator to be passed through it in both directions, until countermanded—I was assured by all the old hands, "It'll all *fire*, sir." I persisted, however; laid it up about the 21st July, with a small one horse plow, ploughing about *four* inches deep; cultivated it down level again; cut it off down to the ground on the 15th September, and hauled off, to shock, a fair yield of heavy corn. The next day I put in a Wiley, 56, plough; (a good implement where there is no sod;) cross ploughing the last spring furrow, and following it with a Sinclair & Co. No. 8, subsoil plough; obtaining by this, a depth of sixteen inches; nine of old and seven of new soil—the subsoil retained in its original bed, but pulverised and lightened up, so that an addition of some inches to the general surface was apparent, besides securing a deposit for the absorption of all surplus moisture, if a wet, or in a dry season, a reservoir of water to be evaporated by the sun, through the pores of the superstratum of old earth; thus gradually incorporating the whole mass—which is completed by a deep ploughing with the ordinary plough, when next broken up—and nourishing the crop. But, to return, having finished ploughing and harrowing, it was seeded in wheat on the 21st September,—the soil appearing to be a mellow, finely pulverised loam—the rain falling in torrents, before we finished, prevented the lands from being opened, the water furrows, marked off or being rolled in; yet we succeeded in getting the timothy seed sown, depending upon the rain to set it. The ground began to clog, and betray symptoms of the "old leaven"—nor did it dry till the April following—one acre was harrowed in with 100 bushels of old leached ashes, two acres were broadcast with the same quantity, one in February, while frozen, and one in April; the other (there being four in all,) remained unaided —25 bushels, the first yielded; 15 the second; 20 the third, and about 14, the fourth; now threshed and measured.

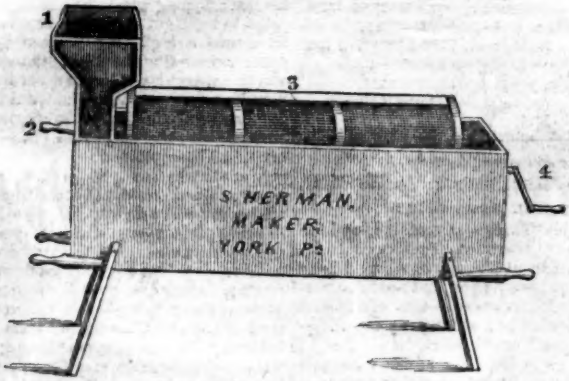
The timothy now looks green amid the stubble, and stands so thickly, that, I think, "ill weeds" dare not usurp its place; and promises a fair swarth of full mowing, for cow hay.

Apropos of Meadows for No. 2.

Yours sincerely, CINCINNATUS.

Baltimore County, July 5th, 1845.

A CHEAP MACHINE FOR CLEANING SEED GRAIN.



Our attention was directed a few weeks ago to a valuable and cheap machine for cleaning seed Wheat —An intelligent farmer of Baltimore co., in whose judgment we have the utmost confidence, having learnt that one of them was in his neighborhood, had it brought to his farm, where he gave it a trial with wheat which he considered had been pretty thoroughly cleansed—the result was so strikingly favourable, by the rejection of a quantity of filth which had escaped through the fan which had been used, that he had no hesitation in purchasing the machine on the spot, and his brother, present at the trial, also immediately ordered and has received one. The satisfactory assurances we received from the most disinterested source, of its great value compared with the cost of the machine, induced us to write to the manufacturer for one of them to exhibit in this city to those who are interested in the matter—and on what farmer is it necessary to urge the importance of having his seed thoroughly cleansed before sowing? but the machine in question has also the capacity to prepare the crop for market, cleansing nearly a bushel a minute, by the labor of a small boy. Mr. Herman in reply to our queries, gives us the following description of the machine, accompanied by a drawing, from which we have had the above engraving executed. He says:

"It is a rolling Screen for taking out of wheat or rye (for seeding,) all kinds of grass seeds, gravel, cockle, cheat, and bad grains of wheat or rye. Our farmers run all their wheat for flour through it, which saves a great deal in the course of a year which the miller gets before grinding; the screening is the very best of feed for cattle.

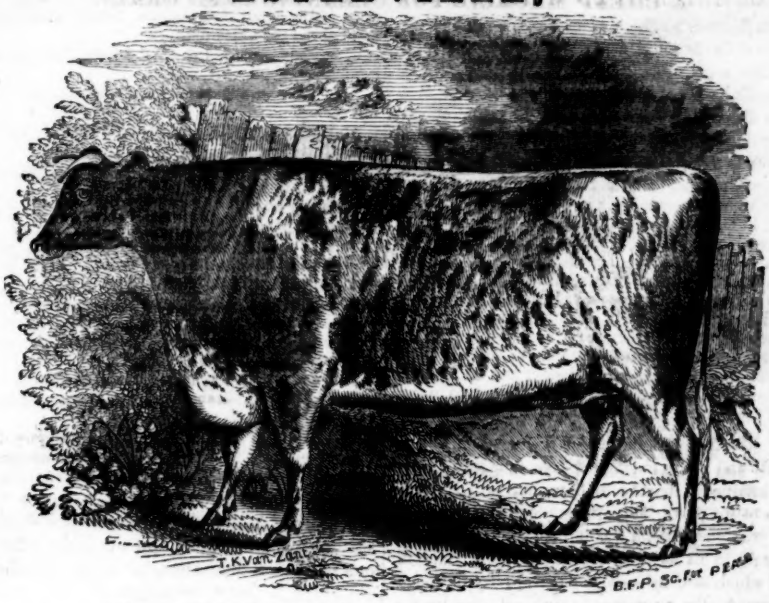
Explanation of the Drawing—"No. 1 is the hopper to put the grain in—No. 2 is the regulator to lead the grain into the cylinder—No. 3 is made of wire through which the grain passes—No. 4 is the crank to turn the cylinder; in cleaning grain the cylinder must be turned very slow. The machine may be raised at the hopper end to have it screen faster if necessary. The legs can be taken off by taking one screw out of each leg; the hopper can also be taken off by removing regulator No. 2: this is only done in case you wish to put it into a smaller compass for carrying any distance."

We have received from the maker one of the machines of the largest size, [there are two sizes, at $8 and $10,] which can be examined at our office, and orders received and forwarded to the manufacturer.

A New Strawberry.—The Boston Cultivator notices having seen a new Strawberry, in the garden of *Henry Colman*, Esq. of Roxbury, which in honor of the proprietor of the grounds, is called "*Colman's Seedling.*" The editor dished a few of the largest that immediately presented themselves, and these not quite ripe, as the first had just been picked, and they measured *one and a half inches in length, and over one in diameter.* "As to its flavor, very few of the cultivated kinds rival it, and none exceed it. The flavor is about equal to the native strawberry, and much resembles it, excepting a peculiarity resembling the pine apple. The texture is remarkably fine and delicate. It is multiform, giving it a pleasing diversity, in our view, as we are fond of variety. Some few of the berries are nearly round, others oblong, but the most are long and pointed. Some are rather flat, others flat on one side and round on the other. Some flattened at the point only, others spreading out and parted at the summit, as tho' two had grown together, and various other forms to suit purchasers, as they are large enough to retail singly."

Caterpillars.—I have been very successful in getting rid of these nasty pests; and the method I adopt is simple and sure. As soon as the nests are large enough to be easily distinguished, say almost the size of a lady's fist, I send a man with a small ladder into the orchard, with directions to go into every tree, and to destroy every web. He puts a heavy leather mitten on his right hand, and taking the worm, web, or nest in his hand on the limb, squeezes it into a mess, thus destroying its contents at one fell swoop. If there are any he cannot reach, he saws off the limb and crushes them on the ground. The operator should take a cold day, or only work at them when the weather is cool, for then they will all be in their nests.—*Cor. Genesee Far.*

ESTERVILLE.



THE PROPERTY OF E. P. PRENTICE, ESQ. OF ALBANY.

This beautiful animal, reserved for himself at his late sale by Mr. Prentice, received the first prize for two year old heifers at the cattle show of the New York State Agricultural Society, at Poughkeepsie, 1844. She was sired in England by the Daniel O'Connell (3557)—dam Esterville, by Sir Alfred, (6469)—g. d. Amethyst, by Prince of Northumberland, (4826)—g. g. d. Amazon, by Crusader, (934)—g. g. g. d. Amazon, by Sultan, (1485)—g. g. g. g. d. Bellona, by Mars, (411)—g. g. g. g. g. d. Rolla, by North Star (458) —own brother to Comet, sold for £1000. Sir Alfred was, in 1840, sold to the King of the French.

SALE OF E. P. PRENTICE'S SHORT-HORNS.

The sale of Mr. Prentice's celebrated stock of Short-horns took place at Albany on 25th June, by public auction—The annexed particulars are taken from the Cultivator:—There was a numerous assemblage from N. Y. and the neighboring states—the cattle were in fine condition, and 41 head were sold at the annexed prices, which tho' in general, may be considered low, when the high price of the original stock and the acknowledged excellence of the herd offered, are considered, yet it should be remembered that the sale was positive, and that there was no underbidding, or buying in.

COWS.

Flora—8 years old, J. B. Nott, Guilderland,	$215
Moss Rose—8 do.—J. W. Wheeler, Hyde Park,	140
Catharine—6 do.—M. Bates, N. York,	105
Snow Ball—11 do.—E. H. Smith, Smithtown, L. I.	110
Melissa—8 do.—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	120
Cora—4 do.—Dr. J. M'Naughton, Albany,	125
Daisy—7 do. " " "	105
Diana—6 do.—J. W. Bishop, Berkshire co. Mass.	155
Charlotte—5 do. " " "	190
Ada—4 do—R. H. Green, Winslow, Me.	170
Appolonia—10 do—J. P. Brayton, Bethlehem,	160
Louisa—5 do.—R. H. Green, Winslow, Me.	150
Splendor—11 do.—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	190
Jenny—4 do.—Edwd. H. Smith,	105
Aurora—10 do.—J. B. Nott, Guilderland,	145
Miss Smith—8 do.—P. W. Tuthill,	80

HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES.

Caty—11 months—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	100
Comely—4 months—Wm. Kelly, Rhinebeck,	70
Nun—3 years— " "	110
Meg—1 year— " "	65
Nell—3 do—M. Bates, New York,	$225
Betty—6 months—Wm. Kelly, Rhinebeck,	55
Rover—1 year—V. P. Douw, Albany,	70
Calf—2 weeks—J. H. Prentice, Brooklyn,	50
Calf—2 months—W. S. Packer,	45
Burley—1 year—V. P. Douw, Albany,	80
Peggy—3 do.—J. P. Brayton, Bethlehem,	200
Peggy 2d—4 months—V. P. Douw, Albany,	110
Ramble—1 year—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	75
Jilt—10 months—Wm. Kelly, Rhinebeck,	60
Calf—1 month—J. P. Walker.	77½

BULLS AND BULL CALVES.

Calf—1 month—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	40
Binize—4 months—R. H. Green, Winslow, Me.	55
Tyro—5 do.—J. B. Nott, Guilderland,	55
Tecumseh—1 year—W. S. Packer, Brooklyn,	200
Calf—2 weeks—J. P. Walker,	30
Calf—1 month—W. Kelly,	75
Duke—6 months—Gen. Kimball, Newfane, Vt.	200
Calf—3 days—J. P. Walker,	25
Timour—11 months—M. J. Hayes, Montreal,	80
Fairfax—5 years—W. S. Packer,	205
41 animals averaging $112 75.	$4,622½

Of the other 9 animals on the catalogue, 4 (Matilda, Sally, Judy and Esterville—a portrait of the latter will be found in this number) were reserved by Mr. Prentice, agreeably to the terms of his advertisement; 1 (Caroline) was withdrawn for want of a bid; 1 cow (Dutchess) and a calf died; another (Dora) was sick; and O'Connell, by a vote of the company, unsolicited by Mr. P. was withdrawn.

Draining of wet grounds adds fifty per cent to their productive value, and lessens the labor of culture.

ON THE DISEASES OF CATTLE.

From Skinner's edition of an English work on the diseases of Cattle and Sheep, we extract an account of one of the most remarkable and fatal diseases, that ever made its appearance among "black cattle."

Few diseases have given rise to more, or offered greater difficulties to medical investigation than what is emphatically called the *milk disease*.

One of the most fatal and extraordinary diseases with which any country has been infested in that which, in Ohio and other western States, is called the Trembles. Professor Drake, of the Transylvania University, and more recently Doctor J. J. Mc Ilhenny, of Springfield, Ohio, have both published their views on the subject; and if they have not succeeded in prescribing any effectual remedy, it has not been for want of diligence of research and an obvious benevolence of motive which do them honour. As resulting from the use of the meat and milk of cattle infected with the trembles, is believed to occur one of the most terrible diseases to which the human family is liable, called the Milk Sickness, *alias* Sick Stomach, 'there is,' says Doctor McIlhenny, 'no disorder that fills the minds of persons residing within the infected districts with more horror, with more dread, with more foreboding of death, than does this disease.' He considers the trembles in cattle to be clearly of *vegetable* origin, that is, produced by animals eating the vegetable, and through them communicated to the person or animal that partakes either of the meat, butter, or milk.

Dr. T. B. Johnston, whose residence is in Southern Indiana, says that he never knew the trembles to prevail where there was not a free growth of weeds. 'I well know that it is circumscribed, that a small section will produce the disease, then an exemption for some distance, when it will again recur. So of some farms; a portion will produce it, and the other will not. In fact, there is not a county from Floyd to the mouth of the Wabash, and as far north as White river, that is exempt from milk sickness; and it often occurs in both Southern Illinois and Kentucky. I have never heard of it above the 41st degree of north latitude, and it seldom reaches that line. As to the cause of the trembles, Dr. McIlhenny, who has devoted much and anxious attention to the subject, says that he differs with Professor Drake as to the *true cause*—'Our difference, however, consists merely in a name, in distinguishing between a different species of plant of the same genus.—He appears to be pretty well satisfied that the Rhus Toxicodendron (Poison Oak) or Rhus Radicans (Poison Vine) is the plant that produces the disease.

My firm convictions are that the disease termed sick stomach is produced by the Rhus Toxicodendron, or *Poison Oak*, and that it is a separate and distinct species from the Radicans or *Poison Vine*. It is further stated that the Poison *Oak* never *vines*—that it is never seen to take hold on trees, and that it grows from one to three feet in height; that it has *three*, while the Radicans or Poison Vine has five leaves.

Dr. McIlhenny thus sums up the reasons which lead him to consider the trembles as the effect of the *Rhus Toxicodendron*, or poison *oak*.

To sum up our conclusions on the cause of milk-sickness, we must be allowed to express our decided conviction, that it is produced by the Rhus Toxicodendron, or Poison Oak, for the following reasons:—

1. Sick stomach does not prevail where there is no rhus—that in every section of the country where none of the small rhus can be found, there can be none of the trembles found.

2. It does universally exist where there is an abundance of the smaller rhus.

3. It never occurs until vegetation comes forth in the spring.

4. Where it prevails most, the rhus is in its greatest luxuriance.

5. After the heavy frosts kill all vegetation, the disease subsides.

6. It is a well known fact, that cultivation kills the Poison Oak—entirely destroys it.

7. It is equally as well established, that animals kept within a well cultivated enclosure, are perfectly exempt from the disease.

8. Almost every observant and intelligent individual who has been raised amidst the disease, has come to the conclusion, that the Rhus Toxicodendron is the cause of milk-sickness.

9. That it is distinguished from the Radicans, or common Poison Vine, by its different number of leaves—also, by its acridness of character.

10. A certain locality produces the disease, find it where you may, such as flat, heavy timber land, interspersed with hazel and other underbrush, which is quite productive of rhus.

11. The seldom appearance of the disease on hilly, dry ground, is in consequence of such a place not being congenial to the production of that plant, so that what little does exist, is not so apt to produce the disease, in consequence of its unhealthy growth.'

The pathology of the disease is thus described by the same author:—

'As to the pathology of this disease I know but little. I have treated quite a number of cases, but never been favored with a *post mortem* examination; consequently, I have had no other means of ascertaining morbid appearances than that of judging from symptoms; the mere external developments of the internal condition. We are told, however, that in animals which die of this disease, the *many folds*, or mesentery, is in a hard, dry condition, and in many cases, perfectly black; and that all the folds which lie enclosed in the bowels, and are in close contact with them, are frequently in such a brittle condition, that they can be readily broken, particuly those that envelop the stomach; and that traces of inflammatory action can be frequently discovered the whole length of the intestinal canal, but the greater amount, those that have left the deepest marks, are to be seen in and around the stomach and duodenum.

'If this should be a true condition of the morbid appearances of the animal, which we are satisfied it is, we may reasonably expect that the same results are to be seen in the human subject. So far, however, as my opinion goes, I believe that the poison, when taken into the stomach, produces inflammation of that organ, particularly confined to the mucous lining to such an extent, that it closes, in proportion to its severity, the passage from the stomach to the bowels. I am satisfied that there is inflammation down to the upper part of the bowels, but generally in a slight degree. I do not believe that the entire force of the disease is spent upon the stomach, and perhaps duodenum.

'From what observation I have been able to make upon the subject, I am inclined to the opinion that the lower portions of the bowels remain, measurably, if not entirely, exempt from inflammation; that it is er-

tirely a disease of the stomach; that in proportion to the severity with which that organ is attacked, in that proportion will the chylopœtic viscera become deranged.

'Another proof that the disease is inflammatory, is the constipated condition of the bowels. There could not be such a dry and hardened condition of the fecal matter produced by any other derangement, excepting that of inflammatory action.

'I have been led to make these remarks, in consequence of an opinion that is prevalent with some of our practitioners, that the disease is nervous; that the great gastric irritability is, or might be, attributed to nervous excitement. This to me, appears impossible; for, if the nerves of the stomach were in such a morbid condition, acting under such a powerful excitement as to produce such distressing symptoms, would not the brain become sympathetically affected? Would we not have an apparent case of Phrenitis? Whereas, the mind, *generally*, remains quiet. We sometimes see mental depression, but rarely ever mental aberration.

Professor Drake enumerates the animals liable to this disease, as the cow, horse, sheep, hog, dog, goat (doubtful), and the mule buzzard. 'The characteristic symptoms,' says he, 'are so much alike in all, that an account of them in one of the species will serve for the whole,' and he selects the cow.

'In the earliest stages of this malady, in the cow, it may not display its existence, if the attacks be not violent and the animal left to itself; for in the beginning, as in all stages of the disorder, the appetite seems to be unimpaired, and the thirst not increased. Even this early stage, not less than the more advanced, appears, however, to be attended with constipation of the bowels. The animal at length begins to mope and droop, to walk slower than its fellows, and to falter in its gait. If, under these circumstances, it should be driven, and attempt to run, the debility and stiffness of its muscles are immediately apparent. It fails rapidly, trembles, pants, and sometimes seems blind, as it runs against obstacles, but this may arise from vertigo; at length it falls down, lies on its side quivering, and is not perhaps, able to rise for several hours, sometimes never. Now and then, the quivering amounts to a slight convulsion. When the disease is not violent, the animal after a longer or shorter period, is again on its feet; but its capacity for muscular effort is greatly impaired, and, if hurried in the slightest degree, it is seized with trembling and stiffness, and may even fall again. Of the state of the circulation, when it lies seriously ill, but little is known, as the pulse has not been inspected. One observer perceived that the nose of a heifer was hot, but others have found that part and the skin generally cool. Perhaps their observations were made in different stages of the disease.—While lying unable to walk, the animal will still eat freely, and also take drink, but does not seem to have any excessive thirst. Its costiveness continues to the last, when the malady goes on to a fatal termination. Of the symptoms which precede dissolution we could not obtain a satisfactory account. Our witnesses generally declared, however, that the abdomen does not swell in any stage of the disease. When it assumes a chronic form, the animal is liable for weeks and even months, to muscular infirmity under exercise, looks gaunt and thin, its hair assumes a dead appearance, and sometimes falls off in considerable quantities, especially from the neck.'

Finally, as to the remedy for this dreadful disorder in cattle, we quote Professor Drake—Dr. McIlhenny's observations applying to the treatment of milk-sickness in the human subject—and then append the article on mad-itch and black-foot from Governor Vance with the following introductory remarks:—

'*Treatment of the Trembles.*—We met with no medical gentlemen who had subjected animals labouring under this disease to a systematic, or even varied empirical treatment. All the people of the district have one and the same indication to fulfil, that of opening the bowels. When this can be effected, the animal, scarcely ever dies—when it cannot, death occurs. For the fulfilment of this indication, epsom salts has been administered in very large quantities, even to pounds, but without effect. Drenches of lard and various mixtures have also been given, with no satisfactory result.—Judge Harold, near South Charleston, has exhibited calomel followed by lard—no essential benefit. Dr. Toland has administered the oil of turpentine, doses of eight, twelve and sixteen ounces, without advantage. An opinion is prevalent that drenching animals injures them by causing them to struggle. On the whole, we found among the people of the district a total want of confidence in all kinds of cathartic *medicines;* and an exclusive reliance on *Indian corn.* Some preferred old corn, some new, and others that which had been frost-bitten. This is fed to all those species of animals that are accustomed to eat it, and is said never to be refused. The more the animal will eat, the greater is the hope of the owner. It is said to produce *purging*, when every other means have failed, and then, it is affirmed, recovery is almost certain. On these points we have found but one opinion in the district. Several of its physicians, after trying other things, had, with the people, settled down on this.

'We found *blood-letting* not in favor. Dr. Toland supposes it has, generally, been employed at too late a period. Many non-professional persons spoke of having resorted to it without advantage, and some thought it had done harm.

'Throughout the disease, rest is considered a *sine qua non* to the favourable effect of any measure, and of itself, in mild cases, sufficient; that is, if they be not aggravated by exercise, the disease will wear itself out, or spontaneously subside.'

Other diseases of cattle which prevail in Ohio and the West have been thus described to us by Governor Vance of Ohio, a gentleman alike distinguished for the study and the practice of what is useful and amiable, rather than the ornamental—hence his great and deserved popularity.

From Governor Vance, of Ohio.

[Mad Itch.—The effect of cattle following hogs that are fed on green corn, cut up and thrown to them when in the roasting-ear state, is very fatal. The hogs will chew the corn-stalk, and extract all the sap, and then throw it out. These fibres thus thrown out, with all the sap extracted, will be eaten voraciously by the cattle. It contains no nutriment to give fermentation to enable the animal to ruminate; and it thus lays inactive in the many folds or stomach; becomes perfectly compact and undigestible; creates fever, and in the end destroys the animal.

Cattle destroyed by eating these fibres of the corn-stalk will first show the symptom by a wild stare of the eye, and in its first stages will frequently become cross, and even attack their keepers. They will begin to rub the nose and head against the

fence until the skin and flesh are torn and lacerated in a most frightful manner, and in the end die in great misery. I have lost many fine cattle in this way, and have never been able to save one thus afflicted. The entire symptoms are similar to what is called the mad itch, which I have no doubt is created by the same cause, by taking into the many folds indigestible matter incapable of fermentation and rumination.

Black Foot.—There is a late complaint amongst our cattle in the west, called the *black foot*. It is fatal to stock, destroying them in a few hours—the attack is generally in the fore leg or foot; the animal becomes stiff, moves with great difficulty, the flesh turning black from the foot to the body, causing mortification and immediate death. This disease has never been in my stock, and I only speak of it from information; but it is said to be very fatal, and as far as I have heard we are without a cure or preventive to arrest its progress.]

POTATO BLIGHT.

To the Editor of the Tribune;

Knowing that you feel a deep interest in the welfare of the farmer, I send you a few observations on the disease of Potatoes, so prevalent last year, which I think I have discovered, and perhaps a remedy.

This morning for the first time, I observed a few tops of the Potatoes in my garden beginning to wither and curl up. Supposing that the cause might be near at hand I commenced a critical examination of several withered tops, to discover it if possible. I soon found a green fly about one-fourth of an inch in length, upon every top that had begun to wither, and on most of them two; some had four, a few six. On one top I found four young flies about one half the size of the adult, and on three others, one each, about one-fourth grown.

The insect, I thought, must be the cause of the disease, commonly called the Curl-Top or Potato Rot, since I found it on every diseased top in 30 or 40 cases, and usually on that part of the plant which had begun to wither near the healthy part of the stem. On the stem of one where the fly was there was a small globule of viscid transparent liquid.—This stem had begun to droop, but only so that it would scarcely be observed. Another globule on the upper side of a curled leaf, on which a fly was sitting, was found to be sweet. Many of the leaves that were much wilted felt as if a glutinous liquid had been spread upon the upper surface. These questions, then, naturally arose:

Does this liquid exude from the plant and attract the fly which is innocently sipping his nectar? or does he perforate the stem and cause the exudation, that like a malicious parasite he may extract the life from this useful root? It appears to me that the insect must be the cause of the exudation, for this reason, that it was found on no plant that did not have a fly upon it.

In almost every case two flies were found upon the same plant, differing a little in size and color, the less being of a darker green, and the larger containing many eggs, which it appeared to be depositing. Only one egg was found in the stem of the plant; yet there were many places apparently stung upon the diseased stem, and the effect of this reached down in some cases three or four inches in the heart of the stem; otherwise were hollowed down as far as the healthy part.

From the above observations these conclusions appear to be evident, that the sting of this fly causes the curl-top—that it breeds upon the stem and the numerous progeny live upon the plant, sucking up its juices and destroying its vitality. As a *remedy* I amputated the diseased part and destroyed all the flies I could. About 10 o'clock I sprinkled soap suds upon one small patch, and none were found upon it at night, though many were found upon another piece that was not showered. An hour before sun-set I sprinkled the suds left from washing upon the whole.

The flies can perhaps be driven out of the field with a brush where it is not convenient to shower them. Yours, &c. E. B.

Pompey, N. Y. July 14, 1845.

P. S. Tuesday morning another examination was made and only one fly was to be found on the piece.

Editorial Remark.—We readily conclude that the green fly found on the Potato vines as above described would affect the quality of the Potatoes, preventing their maturing, and if left for any considerable time in the ground after the tops had begun to decay would produce a second growth, by which the tubers would be rendered useless for cooking—but we doubt whether the fly here spoken of is the cause of the *general* rot which has been so prevalent of late years. We incline to the belief that Rot is to be attributed generally to atmospheric influence—an undue or premature spring-like weather in early Fall, causing the Potatoes which are at a vigorous growth, though not fully matured or perfected, to begin to shoot or to grow in manner as though they had been planted for the purpose—this premature process ferments the tubers to an incipient state of decomposition, and hence the withering of the vines and the consequent deterioration of the crop. We are strengthened in the opinion by the same idea thrown out by Mr. *Gowen*, of Mount Airy, good authority as all will allow, in his Report of Crops in 1843, as published 29th May, 1844, in the American Farmer, to which we would refer our readers.

Amer. Farmer.

Ring-Bone in Horses.—Ring-bone commences in the lower pastern, and usually in the joint, but it rapidly spreads, and embraces not only the pastern-bones, but the cartilages of the foot. There is at first a slight enlargement or bony swelling, on each side of the foot, and just above the coronet. It is more frequent in the hind foot than in the fore, because there is more violent exertion in these than before: yet the lameness is not so great, because these bones are not liable to do much injury; in its early stage it is not impossible to remove the disease by active blistering, or by the hot iron. Ring-bone is one of the most serious lamenesses, with which horses can be afflicted. It is unsoundness when existing in the slightest degree—for when the bony deposit begins to [illegible], the disease is incurable. In slight cases rub [illegible] swelling night and morning with a drachm o[illegible] curial ointment, rubbing it well in, and after applying a blister, and in two or three weeks another, will be of benefit.—*Practical Farmer.*

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

[*From Montgomery's Poems.*]

MARRIAGE RITE.

Young, chaste, and lovely—pleas'd, yet half afraid,
Before yon altar droops a plighted maid,
Clad in her bridal robes of faintless white,
Dumb with the scene and dazzled with delight:
Around her hymeneal guardians stand,
Each with devoted look and feeling bland;
And oft she turns her soul-expressing eye,
Dimm'd with a tear for happiness gone by!
Then coyly views, in youth's commanding pride,
Her own adored one kneeling by her side,
Like lilies bending from the noon-tide blaze,
Her bashful eye lids droop beneath his gaze;
While love and homage blend their blissful power,
And shed a halo round his marriage hour.
What though this chance-abounding life ordain
A path of anguish and precarious pain;
By want or wo, where'er compelled to rove,
A cot's a palace by the light of love!
There beats one heart, which unto death will be
A fountain source of fondest sympathy;
One frownless eye to kindle with his own,
One changeless friend, when other friends are flown:
Oh! sanction Thou the late united pair,
Author of Love! for thou art present there.

[*From the American Masonic Register.*]

THE KISS OF WEDDED LOVE.

Give me of Wedded Love, the holy kiss,
Bestow'd with rapture, and receiv'd with bliss—
Where soul embracing soul in union sweet,
Not only lips, but hearts together meet:—
Give me the kiss that wants no fancied aid
From warbling nightingale in myrtle shade;
From flow'r enamel'd mead or secret bow'r
Beneath the moon's pale beam at midnight hour.
Be mine the kiss that's given without a fear—
That stains not honor, and that wakes no tear:
The kiss whose raptures *gold can never buy*—
The kiss that's ne'er remembered with a sigh:
Give me the *Kiss of Innocence* alone,
The *hallow'd Kiss* that I can call my own.

[*For the Ladies' Department of the American Farmer.*]

PEARL POWDER FOR THE FACE—Take 4 oz. of the best magistry of bismith, 2 oz. fine starch powder, mix them well together, then put them into a subsiding glass, wide at top and narrow at bottom, pour over them a pint and a half of alcohol, and shake them well; let them remain a day or two. When the powder falls to the bottom, pour off the spirit, leaving it dry, then place the glass in the sun to evaporate the moisture. Next turn out the white mass, the dirty parts of which form the top, whilst the pure ingredients remain at the bottom—scrape off the dirty particles, and again pulverize the remaining part of the cake and pour more alcohol over it. Proceed as before, and if there be any moisture remaining, evaporate it by setting it in the sun to dry under a glass vessel. When dry grind the mass with a muller on a marble stone, and keep the powder in a glass bottle, with a stopper for use.

CAKES—Mix well together ¼ lb. butter, 1 lb. 5 eggs, and a cupful of yeast. Set the whole b[illegible] the fire to rise, which effected, add ¼lb. fine powdered loaf sugar, and 1 oz. caraway seed well mixed in, roll the paste out into little cakes, and bake them on tins.

PEARL WATER FOR THE FACE—Put half a pound of Spanish oil soap, scraped very fine, into half a gallon of boiling water. Stir it well, and let it stand till cold. Add a quart of rectified spirit of wine and half an ounce of oil of rosemary; stir again—This liquid should be kept in glass phials well stopped, and will be found to be an excellent cosmetic for removing freckles from the face, and for improving the complexion.

TOOTH POWDER—Take ¼lb. pulverized charcoal, reduce it to an impalpable powder, then sift it thro' a fine piece of gauze, add ½ an oz. of pulverized Peruvian bark, and the same quantity of gum myrrh, mix the whole well together, and you have one of the best tooth powders that can be made.

VEGETABLE OYSTER FRITTERS—Take 8 roasting ears, freshly pulled, grate the corn off the husk, add 1 egg, a table spoonful of flour, and a table spoonful of water, beat the whole well into a batter, and fry in lard, and you will have fritters of the most delicious kind, resembling very closely those made with oysters.

SOAP.—*A Hint in Housewifery.*—In summer and autumn your soap grease is apt to accumulate beyond your immediate wants; if put away it is apt to be devoured by maggots; and if made into soap, you may not have pine or other vessels enough to hold it. Having suffered loss from being placed in such circumstances, we were much gratified with a piece of intelligence accidentally received, which relieved us from this disagreeable dilemma. By boiling your soap with salt, about a quart of the latter to three gallons of the former, you can seperate ley and water enough to make the soap hard. After boiling half an hour, turn it out in a tub to cool. Cut the cakes which swim on the top into pieces, and having scraped off froth and other impurities, melt again (without the ley and water underneath of course) and pour it into a box to cool. You may then cut it up into bars of proper dimensions for drying. By adding a proportion of rosin well pulverized at the last boiling, you will have yellow soap like that made for sale.

A bean, which had lodged in the windpipe of a child of the Rev. Hezekiah Crout, at Westminster, in this state, was extracted twenty-four hours after the occurrence by Dr. PAYNE, in the following manner: A cut was made lengthwise in front of the neck, through the skin, fat, &c., down to the windpipe three-fourths of an inch long, a short space above the top of the breast bone. The bean had swollen and was more than half an inch long, and lodged in the lower end of the wind-pipe. An attempt to remove it by passing an instrument into the wind-pipe through the cut was made, but unsuccessfully. The boy was then held up by the feet and shaken, whilst the cut in the wind-pipe was held open by a hook; in a few seconds the bean appeared at the opening and was taken out with an instrument.

The Franklin (Tenn.) Democrat of the 13th inst says—"Mr. Shumake, living six and a half miles south of this place, in digging a well on top of a hill near his house, discovered the bones of an animal of most enormous size. One of the teeth and one joint of the neck bone is now at the office of Dr. S. S. Mayfield. The tooth weighs four pounds six and a half ounces, and is in a high state of preservation. The enamel on the tooth is near half an inch thick, and as hard as flint."

THE NEW POSTAGE LAW permits newspapers to be carried free to any office within 30 miles of the place of publication—beyond that distance the former rates are charged. Letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, for any distance less than 300 miles, are charged 5 cents; beyond that distance, 10 cents. A letter containing seven bank notes will not weigh over the half ounce, and consequently will be subject to single postage. The P. M. General has decided that postmasters can frank letters, notifying publishers of the refusal or neglect of subscribers taking their papers out of the office—They are not, however, permitted to frank money in payment, as heretofore.

DROUGHT IN THE SOUTH—The South Carolina and Georgia papers furnish melancholy intelligence of the effects of the long continued drought in those states, as also in part of North Carolina, and apprehensions are entertained, that next year there will be difficulty in supplying food for the laboring classes—All vegetable nature seemed to be parched up; not only the Corn and Cotton, but also the trees of the forest were withering under the effects of the burning sun, and the "panting cattle and care worn man alike indicate the reigning calamity." Some slight showers had fallen, which seemed only to assist in scalding the stalks and leaves and facilitating the blighting effects of the drought. A letter of 5th July, from Charlotte, N. C. says the earth had not been thoroughly wet since the 3d Feb. and that there had been no rain there in *seven weeks*—that flour sold at $3 per cwt. and corn would bring $1 per bushel. In Virginia the drought has also been severely felt. The Richmond Whig of the 15th says that no rain had fallen for a fortnight; and that serious and well grounded alarm began to be entertained in various quarters for the corn; the highland Corn in tassel was firing at the bottom, and rapidly approaching an irrecoverable state; the gardens were burnt up, and the pasture almost dry stubble, and in a short time, if the drought continued, the cattle would require to be foddered. The Lynchburg Virginian says that for universality as well as duration, the drought is almost unprecedented in the memory of the present generation; the Corn fields, which a few days before had presented a beautiful appearance, had begun to change their aspect, the blades being considerably twisted by the absence of necessary moisture; and unless rain fell in a very short time, the yield would be very much diminished. The Savannah (Geo.) Republican of 11th, says that the day before they had the heaviest fall of rain since the 1st Jan., which it was supposed had extended along the coast, but its effects upon the crops, the corn particularly, would be slight, and that in no event could there be more than half a crop; the Cotton had not suffered so much, yet two-thirds of a crop only could be realized. We give the above as containing the substance of the accounts contained in the papers of the States mentioned, which are gloomy indeed.

In Maryland the continued series of hot weather has been almost unprecedented, lasting from the 5th to the 24th; the drought was excessive, no rain having fallen in this vicinity from the 3d to the 14th, when the districts round our city were refreshed with a very heavy shower, of which the city was not a partaker; on the 16th, however, we had a fine rain, and subsequently some trifling showers; and on the 26th and 27th, we had rains which extended pretty generally throughout the state, but they were not of sufficient duration to be very effective.—we had also a very refreshing rain on the 30th.

THE WEATHER—The "oldest inhabitant" has scarcely a recollection of such an intensely hot spell of weather as has been experienced in the last month. The 4th of July was unusually cool and pleasant; but from that day it began to be excessively sultry, without a drop of rain till the middle of the month to moisten the parched earth. The thermometer in the shade in this city during that period, ranged from 85 to 98°; in Albany it ranged as high as 102! in Philadelphia, the range was about the same as in Baltimore; and the same may be said of other places between Boston and Washington. The papers in the various cities contained daily notices of sudden deaths caused by a too free use of cold water whilst exposed to the intense heat, as also by strokes of the sun.

Altho' the heat was not as oppressive in the latter part of the month as in the former, yet it was probably the hottest month experienced for quarter of a century—We had a change, however, on the 24th, which was so great and sudden, (being a fall of some 20° or more,) that it was found necessary to doff summer apparel; this continued for a day or two only.

A correspondent of the Phil. U. S. Gazette, says that the hot Monday of June 9, the mercury rose to 94 in a perfect shade—the hot Sunday of July 2, 1843, to 96° at mid day; at 6 P. M. of said day there was a tremendous thunder storm, accompanied by a violent wind, which continued for several hours, and did much damage; it afterwards became very cool for a week, and the mercury sunk 40°—July, 1838, was very hot; on 15 days the mercury rose to 90 and above, in the shade; on five of those days it rose from 95 to 97. The summer of 1838, was the hottest for ten years, and there has been none so warm since until the present.

THE CROPS—The Wheat crop being harvested and much of it thrashed out, there is no longer a doubt that it is the best, in yield as well as in quality, that our country has been blessed with for several years; this may be said of the crop in every wheat growing State; in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, N. Jersey, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, all accounts concur in the fact, that the crop is decidedly above an average one—even in Ohio, where there was such a panic about a month before harvest, it turns out that a change of weather had saved the crop, and a fair average one was obtained. The Milan (Ohio) Tribune of 9d July, to show what a change had occurred in the prospects of the farmers of that state, states that one who, during the late panic purchased a year's supply of flour at $5 per bbl. now boasts that he will have 30 bushels of wheat to the acre!

The Tobacco crop, the Virginia papers say, must necessarily be short; not more than half a crop has been planted, and the want of sufficient seasons has caused it to *stand* badly, and but little will be topped before August. The Lynchburg Virginian says that many planters in that region, have been unable for want of a season to plant as much as usual, and no small quantity of that planted has since died, or has been materially injured. In Missouri, the St. Louis Republican says, that from all that can be gathered, the tobacco crop will about equal that of last year. In Maryland, the prospect is very gloomy—many of the planters were prevented by the unfavorableness of the season, from planting as much as usual, and since th plants have been put out, the weather has been so scorching hot as to injure them, so that an average crop cannot, under any circumstances it is supposed, be realized.

The Oat crop will be short, though not so light as had been anticipated a month ago—some late rains helped the Oats which had not been too far advanced to be affected by it. On the Eastern Shore of this state it is said the crop will not probably exceed half the usual one.

The Corn generally has suffered very much from the drought—the early planted in many parts of this and the adjoining states, will be irrecoverable, to a considerable extent; the later planted may do better, if we have seasonable rains this month. We fear it will be a very light crop, throughout all the Middle and Southern states.

The Pastures are nearly burnt up; the springs and streams have in many places become nearly dry, and much suffering and inconvenience experienced in many places from want of water, in consequence of the protracted drought. Potatoes and garden stuffs have also shared in the general failure.

CROPS IN ENGLAND—The advices from England represent the prospects of the growing crops as being very favorable, so favorable indeed, that the opinion was entertained, that, should the weather which prevailed in June continue, they would be the most abundant ever known. It must, however, be borne in mind, that the harvest for *Wheat*, the crop in which we are most interested, does not come on till September, and that there are many casualties, incident to the weather, which may supervene between now and then, to blight the prospects now so flatteringly spoken of.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, FOR JULY,

Kept at Schellman Hall, near Sykesville, Carroll co. Md.

Taken at 6 o'clock, a. m., 2 o'clock, noon, and at 6 o'clock, p.m.

	Wind.			Temperature.			Remarks.		
1	SE	SE	SE	53	85	73	Clear		
2	SE	S	S	66	80	75	Do	Cloudy	
3	S	S	S	71	85	75	Do	Shower	Clear
4	SE	SE	SE	55	79	64	Do		
5	SW	SW	SW	61	84	75	Do		
6	SW	SW	SW	66	85	83	Do		
7	SW	SW	S	75	90	86	Do		
8	S	S	SE	80	93	85	Do		
9	N	N	S	78	91	80	Do		
10	S	SE	SE	70	85	70	Do		
11	SE	S	S	65	94	86	Do		
12	S	S	S	75	96	88	Do	fine breeze	
13	SW	SW	SW	80	95	87	Do		
14	S	NW	NW	73	94	80	Do		Rain
15	S	S	S	75	96	88	Do		
16	SE	SE	SE	77	95	80	Do		Showery
17	S	S	S	74	94	80	Do		
18	SW	SW	SW	78	95	80	Do		
19	NE	W	W	70	95	85	Do		
20	W	W	W	74	93	89	Do		
21	SE	W	W	73	95	87	Shower	Clear	
22	W	SW	SW	83	96	87		Clear	
23	SW	SW	SW	73	80	75		Clear	Shower
24	W	W	SW	67	75	57		Clear	
25	W	SW	SW	55	74	76		Clear	[ter fell
26	E	W	NE	67	81	65	Cloudy, Rain, 6-10 of an in. wa-		
27	W	W	W	67	85	69	Clear	Shower	Clear
28	S	SW		65	80		Clear		

There has not been one inch of water fallen during the 28 days; springs and streams are lower at this time than has been known for the last 20 years—Corn and Potatoes and Tobacco are suffering for want of water—Lime has sustained its reputation during this drought; the best field of Corn which I have seen in my rides belongs to Mr Patterson—poor limed land. B.

BALTIMORE MARKET—July 30.

Coupons, or state interest certificates, 78a79.

Beef Cattle—The supply has been large for two or three weeks; 977 head were offered at the scales Monday week, 346 of which were driven to Philadelphia; last Monday, 600 head were offered, 154 of which driven to Philadelphia, 100 remain unsold, and the balance taken by city butchers at $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per 100lbs. on the hoof, equal to $3a4\frac{3}{4}$ nett, according to quality, which may be considered the average rates for several weeks past.

Hogs—The demand for live is good, the supply fair, prices steady, and sales at $4\frac{3}{4}$a5.

Coffee—At auction, Rio 7a7$\frac{1}{2}$c, Laguyra 7a7$\frac{1}{4}$.

Cotton—Mobile, sales at 7$\frac{1}{2}$, Louisiana 8c.

Feathers—Sales steady at 28a33c per lb.

Fish—Mackerel, No. 3, old, 6\frac{1}{4}$, new 7a7$\frac{1}{4}$, Herrings, $3.37a3$\frac{1}{2}$.

Flour—Sales of *Howard st.* at 4\frac{1}{2}$; some lots fresh sales at $4.62. *Susquehanna* $4.44, sales. *Rye* 2.94a3. ground at $4.37; some holders ask $4.43 for choice brands, but we hear of no sales; receipt price 4\frac{1}{4}$—New is in good request at $4.50, but receipts are light. *City Mills*, demand greater than supply, and

Inspect's for week ending	July 3,	July 10,	July 18,	July 25
Howard street, *bbls.*	2265	1568	2210	2039
City Mills,	1336	700	1659	3363
Susquehanna,	809	32	221	00
Family,	241	138	47	535
Rye,	47	223	52	43
Corn Meal,	50	150	47	222
	4738	2811	4236	6002

Besides about 880 hf do Flour, and 50 hhds Corn Meal.

Tobacco—The limited receipts of Md. for a week or two, owing to the dry weather not enabling planters to pack their crops for market, has caused but few transactions during that period—but the demand is lively for good descriptions, and nearly all the receipts are sold promptly at prices annexed, which have been well maintained for several weeks. A number of vessels have been loading for Europe, and the stock in the hands of the commission merchants is not large. The prices during the past week have ranged as follows, which may be given as the ruling prices for the month, viz:—*Maryland*, Inferior and common $2a3; mid. to good, $3,50a5, good $6a7,50; and fine $8a14. The demand for *Ohio* is active, and sales equal receipts; we quote com. to mid. $3a4,50; good 5a6; fine red & wrap. 6,50a10; fine yellow $7,50; and extra wrappery $11a13. There is but very little Missouri and Kentucky in market. The inspections for the last four weeks are as follows:

For the week ending	July 4,	July 11,	July 18,	July 25
Maryland, *hhds.*	531	1136	483	594
Ohio,	235	421	921	961
Kentucky,	0	1	0	10
Virginia,	0	1	1	5
	766	1561	1405	1570

Wool—Last sales, for unwashed com. 16a18c.; washed do. 26a28; $\frac{1}{4}$ bld. 28; $\frac{1}{2}$ do. 30; $\frac{3}{4}$ to full 31a35.

Plaister—$2.87 per ton, sales; ground $1.12 bbl.

Molasses—Porto Rico at auction, 28$\frac{1}{2}$a29; N.Orl. 28a30c for hhds., 30a31 for tcs. and 32a33c. for bbls.

Whiskey—Sales of bbls. at 23c. and hhds. would bring 22c; demand fair but stock light.

Sugars—Holders ask an advance: stocks light—Porto Rico 6\frac{1}{2}$a8; N.Orl. infer. to prime 5\frac{1}{2}$a7$\frac{1}{2}$, the stock is quite small; St. Croix 8a8$\frac{1}{2}$; Hav. white 10.

Provisions—Balt. packed mess Pork 13$\frac{1}{2}$a13$\frac{1}{2}$; pri. 10$\frac{1}{2}$a11; mess Beef 10\frac{1}{2}$a11; No 1, 9a9$\frac{1}{2}$; prime 7a7$\frac{1}{2}$. Bacon, shoulders 6$\frac{1}{2}$a7; sides, and asso'd 7$\frac{1}{4}$a7$\frac{1}{2}$; hams 8a9; Balt. cured hams 10a11c; Lard, No. 1 Western 8a8$\frac{1}{2}$ in kegs, 7$\frac{1}{2}$a8 in bls.; Butter, West. 8$\frac{1}{4}$a10.

Grain—Supplies of *Wheat* reach us freely; prices incline downward, the mills not having sufficient water to do the usual work; Reds sell at 80a83 for good to prime, an occasional lot very prime bringing 84a 85c.; ord. to good 75a80; White Wheats 80a86 for ord. to good; and 80a90 for prime. *Corn*, Md. white 43a44, sales; yellow 44a45c; Pa. yellow 45c. Md. *Rye*, 50a52c. *Oats*, sales of Md. at 25a27c for new, and 30c. for old; Pa. 30c. *Flaxseed* $1.20a1.25. *Cloverseed*, Ohio, sales at $4.50; there is a probability of a rise in price, of which those interested are warned.

At Philadelphia, July 29, Flour dull, $4.06 for ord. and 4.25 for selected brands; Rye do. 2.87; Wheat, southern and old Pa. 86c. sales steady; southern yellow Corn 44c. sales; Oats, old Southern yel. 33; Beef Cattle, ord. to extra $4a6, 789 head offered, 200 of which taken to N.York; the market rather heavy.

At New York, July 29, Cotton quiet, prices firm—Flour dull, price tending downward; Genesee 4\frac{1}{2}$a4 25. Ohio and Michigan 4a4$\frac{1}{4}$, Southern 4.75a4.87—these prices are, however, difficult to obtain—NOrl. prime Sugar 7$\frac{1}{4}$c—Corn, last sales 49c per bush. of 56lbs; Rye 68c; Oats 45; Wheat, Md. 93 a 95.

At Boston, July 26, the price of Flour was receding altho' the Grain market was firm; 10 to 15,000 bush. yellow flat Corn sold at 49a50c; all afloat was held at that price; Oats scarce, and sales at 40c.

WHITMAN'S AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE, *No. 2 EUTAW STREET, opposite the Eutaw House.* Also for the accommodation of the Bay trade he has opened another House on Light Street, 2nd. door from Pratt; where will be found his new improvement in the way of Horsepowers and Thrashing Machines, together with a general assortment of all kinds of Agricultural Implements, such as Fanning Mills, which he warrants superior to any other, or they may be returned and the money will be refunded; also Plows on the same terms, a variety of Straw Cutters, Corn Shellers, Corn and Cob Crushers, &c. &c. &c.

Plough Castings always on hand, and all kinds of Repairing done at short notice and on reasonable terms.

Jy EZRA WHITMAN.

☞AGRICULTURAL AGENCY——The undersigned, publisher of the "AMERICAN FARMER," tenders his services to his patrons and the Agricultural community generally, for the purchase and sale of *Agricultural Implements* and *Machinery, Farm and Garden Seeds, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, &c.*— He intends giving particular attention to this business, and pledges himself to use every exertion to render satisfaction—As he is the Agent for most of the principal Manufacturers and Breeders of this vicinity, purchasers will be supplied at their prices, without any charge for commission. ☞All orders, to meet attention, must be accompanied with the cash, or city acceptances, and addressed (post paid) to SAML. SANDS, Publisher "*American Farmer*," cor. Charles & Balt. sts. Balt'e.

ETURIAN SEED WHEAT.—The subscribers offer a lot of this new variety of wheat for seed. It has been grown the two last seasons by the Rev. D. Zollickoffer, of Carroll county, Md., from seed obtained of Commodore Stewart, who introduced it from Italy. It is an early white wheat, as early as the Mediterranean, but not bearded—not subject to rust or smut, and so far as four years experience has gone, not subject to be injured by the "fly."

It has proved itself to be more productive than white wheats heretofore cultivated, and equal to the most productive "reds."

BOARDLY & COX,
August—1t* *Wood-st. Bowley's Wharf.*

DEVONS—The subscriber offers for sale a number of Devon Bulls, at $25 to $110, some of them not surpassed in this or any other country. Also a splendid young Durham, 14 months, and a number of full bred and grade Heifers and Cows in calf, very cheap, the owner being overstocked. S. SANDS.

THE WHEAT CROP——The wheat crop promises to be unusually large this year, and the prospects for advanced prices being favorable, should induce the agricultural community to provide themselves with machinery to put their crops in the markets at the earliest period and in the best condition to command the highest market rates. The subscribers therefore, have made preparation to meet that object, by providing Machinery of best construction, which they offer for sale at the following prices, viz.

HORSE POWERS, for the draught of 2, 4 or 8 horses, at 75, 100 and $125 each. Powers at $100 and $125 are particularly recommended and warranted superior.

THRESHING MACHINES, adapted to be driven by the above powers, price 40 to $60, all made on the spike principle, (no cast iron used) and each spike secured with a screw nut and warranted not to break or cause detention by their use.

Driving BANDS for do. 8 to $10 each.

Rice's and Watkins' patent FANNING MILLS, warranted equal to the best patterns in the U. States, price 25, 30 and $45.

ALSO—CORN MILLS at $40; Corn and Cob CRUSHERS, 20a$65; PLOWS and other Agricultural Machinery; TOOLS, GARDEN & FIELD SEEDS, a large and general assortment. For a description of sorts we refer to our general catalogue, to be had gratis. ROBERT SINCLAIR, Jr. & CO.

Agricultural Implement Manufacturers and Seedsmen,
July. 62 Light street, Baltimore.

JAMES MURRAY'S *CORN & COB CRUSHERS*—These already celebrated machines have obtained the premium by a fair trial against other Crushers exhibited at the fair held at Govanstown, Balt. co. Md. in Oct. 1843, and the increased demand enables the patentee to give further inducements to purchasers by fitting an extra pair of grinders to each machine without extra charge. Prices $25, 30, 35, 40, 45.

ALSO—Small MILLS, which received a certificate of merit, for $15—I have also superior CUTTING BOXES, such as will bear inspection by either farmers or mechanics. Also, Horse Powers, Mills, Corn Shellers, Mill and Carry-log Screws, small Steam Engines, Turning Lathes, &c. Also, a second hand Steam Engine, 16 horse power, and the works for 2 Saw Mills.

Any kind of Machine, Model or Mill-work built to order, and all mills planned and erected by me, warranted to operate well.

☞Orders can be left with J. F. Callan, Washington, D. C.; S. Sands, Farmer Office; or the subscriber.

Patent Rights for the Corn and Cob Crusher for sale.
Jy. JAS. MURRAY, Millwright, York near Light st. Balt.

PRICE $100—REAPING MACHINES SIMPLIFIED, and their durability very greatly increased, will cut as fast as any I made prior to 1841; two horses are geared abreast, and are relieved from the once objectionable weight, and the draught is very much diminished. The value of this late improvement has been tested by Wm. Butler and Jacob Staley, of Shepherdstown, Va. who if applied to will give it the highest character.

The large Reapers are made as usual at $170—medium size will be made to order.

My CORN & COB CRUSHER, so well known in the South, stands unrivalled—price $25 to $35. OBED HUSSEY,
July. Baltimore.

PULVERIZATION. DECOMPOSITION.

A. G. MOTT, Ensor and Forest streets, sole agent at corner of for the sale of the "BOSTON CENTRE DRAUGHT PLOW," Prouty & Mears' self-sharpening patent, with new patent gearing. By this admirable arrangement, the labors of man and team are lessened one half, while the power and steadiness of draught obtained are so great that any depth of furrow is broken up, pulverized, and carried completely over with perfect ease and facility, and the precision of the spade. Prices, 7.50 to $13, with extra point and share. No extra charge for new gearing. Castings always on hand. "Spade labor, the perfection of good husbandry."
July—tf

NORTH DEVON CATTLE——The subscriber offers for sale a few BULLS, HEIFERS and CALVES, of pure NORTH DEVON blood, from 6 to 18 months old. They have been bred with great care from the best stock in the country, are handsome animals, of good size, and in fine condition.

Prices from $25 to $50. Address or apply to
JOHN P. E. STANLEY,
Jy.—tf 46 S. Calvert st. Baltimore, Md.

LIME—LIME——The subscriber is prepared to furnish from his depot at the City Block, Baltimore, ALUM STONE LIME of the purest description, deliverable at any point on the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, at such prices as cannot fail to please.

He is also prepared to furnish superior building Lime at 25c. per bushel, in hhds., or at $1 per bbl. E. J. COOPER,
July. City Block, Baltimore.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—LABOR SAVING MACHINERY.——*GEORGE PAGE*, Machinist & Manufacturer, Baltimore st. West of Schroeder st. Baltimore, is now prepared to supply Agriculturists and all others in want of Agricultural and Labor-saving MACHINERY, with any thing in his line. He can furnish Portable Saw Mills to go by steam, horse or water power; Lumber Wheels; Horse Powers of various sizes, ranging in price from $65 to $200, and each simple, strong and powerful. His *Horse Power & Thrashing Machine*, he is prepared to supply at the low price of $125 complete; the Thrashing Machines without the horse power, according to size, at $30, 40, 65 and $75; Improved Seed and Corn Planters; Portable Tobacco Press; Portable Grist Mills complete, $125; Corn & Cob Crushers, superior and improved, $45; Mortising Machines, all sizes; Post Augurs, $5; Tenoning Machines; Cylindrical Corn Shellers from $30 to $40 each: they are of great power, shelling, by horse power, 3 to 4000 bushels per day; Vertical Sawing Machines; Stereotype Machines; Forcing Pumps; Veneering Saw; Cider Presses; together with every other article of *Castings or Machinery*. The public are invited to call and examine for themselves. July. tf

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